

Paris holds 4 bombing suspects

PARIS (R) — Four Lebanese nationals are being held by police for questioning in a probe into bombings that killed 13 people in Paris last year, the interior ministry said Wednesday. One of five Lebanese picked up over the past 24 hours was released Wednesday. Police have made several arrests in Islamic fundamentalist circles over the past four months in connection with the bombings. But the interior ministry refused to comment on a French state-radio report that one of the Lebanese had worked at the Iranian embassy in Paris and knew the interpreter currently held up there apparently to testify on the bombings. Judge Gilles Boulogne, who wants to question Iranian embassy interpreter Valid Gordji, will also hear the Lebanese. France broke off ties with Iran last Friday over Mr. Gordji's refusal to leave the embassy which is currently ringed by police and elite sharpshooters to prevent him escaping. French police first thought Marxist brothers based in Lebanon were involved in the attacks, after a Middle East guerrilla group claimed responsibility. But investigators switched their attention to Islamic fundamentalist circles after the arrest of Tunisian Foad Ali Saleh and Lebanese-born French citizen Mohammad Mubadjer, who says he knows Mr. Gordji, according to police.

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Regent congratulates Egypt and Oman

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Al Hussein, the Regent, on Wednesday sent a cable of congratulations to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak congratulating him on the occasion of the anniversary of the July 23 revolution. The Regent wished President Mubarak continuing good health and happiness and the Egyptian people further progress and prosperity. The Regent also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Sultan Qaboos of Oman congratulating him on the occasion of Oman's Renaissance Day. The Regent wished Sultan Qaboos continuing good health and happiness and the Omani people further progress and prosperity.

Rifai meets Fahoum

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Wednesday received Mr. Khaled Al Fahoum, former speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), who is currently on a private visit to Jordan. Earlier Lower House Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayez met with Mr. Fahoum.

Palestinian cartoonist shot in London

LONDON (R) — A cartoonist working for a pro-Palestinian Kuwaiti newspaper was shot and seriously wounded in London Wednesday night. Police said an anti-terrorist squad was investigating the incident. Police said the man, believed to be a Palestinian, was shot in the London suburb of South Kensington near the offices of the Al Aquabus newspaper. The shooting took place less than a kilometre from where an opponent of the Iranian government was wounded in a car bomb attack on Saturday. Eyewitnesses said the man, in his late 40s, was shot at point blank range as he left the newspaper's offices with a woman.

Israeli court rejects Arab's bid to buy factory

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli court on Wednesday rejected a bid by a Palestinian businessman from the occupied Gaza Strip to buy a bankrupt barbed wire factory in Israel. Abdul Khalik Al Diks offered \$100,000 more than other bidders, but the court ruled that it would be a "security risk" if he owned Hamagdar steel industries. "It's an example of racism," Mr. Diks told Reuters: I am not dealing at all with politics. I'm only a merchant."

Ethiopia urges armed struggle against S. Africa

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia called on Wednesday for armed struggle against the white minority government in South Africa, saying experience in other parts of Africa had shown it was the only way to end colonial rule. Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh told a conference of foreign ministers of the 50-member Organisation of African Unity (OAU): "Armed struggle is the only effective way to bring about total liberation, as it has been proved in Algeria, Angola, Mozambique and elsewhere in Africa."

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U.S.-escorted Kuwaiti tankers clear Hormuz unchallenged by Iran

DUBAI (Agencies) — With crews at battle stations, three U.S. warships herded two reflagged Kuwaiti tankers into the perilous waters of the Gulf on Wednesday unchallenged by Iran.

Kuwait was preparing to receive the tankers sailing to its main oil port, where tight security has been in effect since bombing incidents last year. The supertanker Bridgeton and tanker Gas Prince were expected to berth on Thursday night or Friday morning after starting out on a 880-kilometre voyage up the Gulf escorted by the three U.S. warships.

Aircraft from the carrier USS Constellation outside the Gulf flew air cover overhead. Sandi-based airborne warning and control system aircraft, known as AWACS, also monitored the operation.

"They are moving fast in close convoy," reported one shipping source as the cluster of ships travelled at about 16 knots, the approximate top speed of the 401,382-tonne Bridgeton.

Both the Bridgeton, formerly

the Al Rekkah, and the 46,723-tonne Gas Prince, formerly the Al Minagish, ran up the American flag Tuesday off the United Arab Emirates. They have American captains.

The navy cruiser Fox led the convoy Wednesday, while the frigate Crommelin and the destroyer Kidd steamed nearby.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei vowed his nation would "strike blows to the ominous alliance" of the United States and Kuwait. Iran accuses Kuwait of helping Iraq in the Gulf war.

The Bridgeton and the Gas Prince entered the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf, and had passed into the vital waterway by 4 p.m.

The convoy sailed about 19 kilometres from Iran's Larak Island, site of one of Iran's offshore oil shipping terminals, and 27

kilometres from Qeshm Island, where Iran was reported to have installed at least one of its three mobile anti-ship missile batteries.

Shipping sources said passage through the Strait of Hormuz was considered the most hazardous part of a mission which has provoked opposition in the U.S. congress and concern that the United States could become embroiled in the Gulf war.

But the convoy still had to pass through waters where Iranian Revolutionary Guards have mounted hit-and-run raids on tankers from islands and improvised offshore bases in the Gulf.

Their raids in high-speed boats have been the main threat in recent months as the toll in the "tanker war" — fought on the sidelines of the seven-year war between Iran and Iraq — climbed to 333 tankers and merchant ships attacked by the two sides.

The voyage through the strait brought the U.S. convoy within 20 kilometres of the Iranian

(Continued on page 3)

Escort seen as test of U.S. resolve; Gulf states extend facilities to American ships; page 2

Gorbachev offers to scrap medium-range missiles

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev said the Soviet Union is ready to eliminate all its medium-range missiles in Asia if the United States does the same, the TASS news agency said Wednesday.

TASS said the Soviet leader made the remarks in written replies to questions from the Indonesian newspaper Merdeka.

Analysts said the offer appeared to eliminate a key obstacle in current negotiations between the superpowers in Geneva on a major disarmament treaty.

The Geneva talks between the superpowers have been deadlocked for weeks. The two sides are negotiating a ban on medium-range and shorter-range rockets in Europe.

Under one formula considered by the superpowers, both sides were to retain 100 warheads, with the Soviet rockets bearing them to be stationed in Asia. It was not immediately clear what American missiles he was referring to, but there has been talk about the United States positioning missiles in Alaska that could strike the Asian part of the Soviet Union.

"In an effort to accommodate the Asian countries and take into account their concerns, the Soviet Union is prepared to agree to

eliminate all of its medium-range missiles in the Asian part of the country as well," Mr. Gorbachev said.

"In other words, we will proceed from the concept of a 'global double zero'," he added. His remarks were read on Moscow Television as well as being issued by TASS.

Mr. Gorbachev said the offer would not be linked — as Moscow has until now — with the withdrawal by the United States of sea-borne nuclear weapons from the area of Korea, the Philippines and the Indian Ocean base of Diego Garcia.

"We would like to hope, though, that it (the U.S. nuclear presence) will at least not grow," he declared.

Under one possible treaty text under discussion in Geneva, the Soviet Union might retain 100 medium-range missiles in Asia while the United States could base a similar number on its own territory.

But recently Washington has been urging a clearly reluctant Moscow to agree to the elimination of the Asian missiles as well.

In his remarks, Mr. Gorbachev made clear he envisaged dismantling of both medium- and shorter-range missiles under the "double zero option."

Turkish court drops spying charges against Ammarin

ANKARA (Agencies) — A military court ruled Wednesday that a Jordanian embassy employee accused of spying for Syria may not be tried because he has diplomatic immunity.

The court, opening the re-trial of Adnan Mnsa Suleiman Ammarin, accepted an earlier ruling of the military appeal court that he enjoyed immunity under the Vienna Convention on the protection of diplomats.

The same court sentenced Mr. Ammarin and a Turk of Iranian origin, Ali Kent, to 15 years each in prison in March for spying. The appeal court annulled the verdict on Mr. Ammarin on the grounds of diplomatic immunity while ratifying the prison term for Kent.

Jordan had protested to Turkey that Mr. Ammarin, an embassy translator, has immunity and Turkish press reports said the issue was raised by His Majesty King Hussein on a visit to Ankara last month.

Mr. Ammarin will remain in detention because of other cases against him, his lawyers said. Earlier this month he was acquitted of six others on charges of killing Jordanian embassy First Secretary Ziad Al Sati in 1985 but the prosecutor later said he would appeal, which means a re-trial.

Mr. Ammarin is also being tried on charges of involvement in an ammunition factory blast last year. The court decided to separate his case from those of other defendants, which legal sources quoted by Reuters said appeared to open a way for him to be returned to Jordan in the near future.

Mr. Ammarin faces life imprisonment if convicted on sabotage charges in the bombing of a munitions depot that killed seven firefighters in Kirikkale near here last summer.

Mr. Ammarin denied all the charges brought against him and testified in three separate trials that his pre-trial confessions were extracted under torture.

Defence lawyer Hussein Duman told AP that he expected a ruling soon on Mr. Ammarin's diplomatic immunity from the court handling the third case.

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Aide contradicts North testimony on shredding, page 2

Syrian and Soviet cosmonauts head for Mir station in space

MOSCOW (R) — Syria's first man in space and two Soviet cosmonauts speeded in a Soyuz spacecraft towards the Soviet Union's orbiting space station Mir on Wednesday at the start of a 10-day mission.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mohammad Faris, a 36-year-old air force pilot from Aleppo, and cosmonauts Alexander Viktorenko and Alexander Alexandrov took off Wednesday morning in their Soyuz TM-3 vehicle from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Soviet Central Asia.

They are due to orbit the earth for two days before linking up with Mir, which has been manned since Feb. 5 by Soviet cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko and Alexander Laveikin and is planned to be the centre of the first permanently-operated space complex.

The three-man crew is expected to carry out scientific experiments with Romanenko and Laveikin before returning to earth on July 31.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said the Soyuz TM-3, one of a new generation of Soviet spacecraft which replaced the older Soyuz-T series, was launched at 5.59 a.m.

Soviet television did not broadcast pictures of the take-off. Viktorenko, the mission commander, said before the flight that it was "an historic mission, called upon to play a positive role in boosting friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Syria."

Abdul Meguid ends Israeli visit; differences remain

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said Wednesday his visit to Israel was a success, but that he did not underestimate the differences of opinion among Israeli leaders on a proposed Middle East peace conference.

"It was a very, very useful set of meetings I had here," Mr. Abdul Meguid said before returning to Egypt after a three-day visit in which he discussed an international peace conference with Israeli leaders.

"There are differences of opinion," Mr. Abdul Meguid told reporters at Tel Aviv airport. "We have some real conclusions will be reached. I have to look to that with cautious optimism. But I also must be realistic not to underestimate the differences."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who also attended the news conference, said Mr. Abdul Meguid's visit was "very successful" and that it was "the first time we are meeting when almost the only subject is peace in the Middle East."

Added Mr. Abdul Meguid: "I agree with Mr. Peres that my visit

Iraq ready to implement U.N. resolution if Iran does same

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Wednesday it welcomed the recent U.N. Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf war, which was approved by the National Assembly.

Baghdad Television said Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz was authorised to deliver a message to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressing support for Monday's resolution.

Mr. Aziz earlier addressed a two-hour session of the National Assembly which ended with a unanimous vote declaring support for the ceasefire measure.

Security Council Resolution 598 called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a return to pre-war boundaries. Iran castigated it, saying it failed to condemn Iraq as the "aggressor."

A government spokesman quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Baghdad was ready to cooperate with Mr. Perez de Cuellar in order to reach a settlement to the almost seven-year-old conflict.

The spokesman was speaking after President Saddam Hussein chaired a joint meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council and the Baath Party's regional leadership.

He stressed that Iraq's acceptance of the resolution was conditional on the response from Tehran.

Iran's readiness "to implement unconditionally, with good intentions and seriously, its commitments provided by the resolution is a basic matter for the reciprocal commitments on our side," he said.

The spokesman said Iraq would welcome a visit to Baghdad by Mr. Perez de Cuellar so it could set out its position. He also said Mr. Aziz would travel to New York if needed.

However INA, in a dispatch monitored Wednesday in Nicosia, Cyprus, reported that Iraqi forces mounted a "fierce raid" on Iranian positions in Iraq's Iranian-occupied Fao peninsula.

The agency did not mention casualties but it said the fighting Monday night, hours after the U.N. resolution was approved, led to the capture of large quantities of Iranian arms and equipment.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei has been quoted by the Iranian media as saying that

(Continued on page 4)

'Concrete' French-Iranian talks to begin soon but no sign of end to blockades

PARIS (AP) — France and Iran are close to agreement on designating third-country representatives in each other's capitals, which will allow "concrete discussions" on the return home of embassy staffs, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

There was no sign that the staffs of the French and Iranian embassies, blocked in their missions for a week, were about to leave.

Wednesday was the departure date suggested by France after it broke relations with Iran on Friday, but a ministry spokesman said it was "very clear" no-one was going.

An agreement designating Italy and Pakistan as the respective representatives for France and Iran "is imminent," the spokesman said.

"From that moment very concrete discussions can start," he said. He spoke on condition he not be identified in keeping with French practice.

The two countries threw up police blockades around each other's embassies last Thursday in a stand-off over France's insistence that an Iranian embassy employee turn himself in for questioning about last year's Paris bomb wave.

Iran, in turn, demanded that French embassy First Secretary Paul Torri turn himself over to an Islamic court for trial on spy charges.

"It is clear that if France allows all members of the Iranian embassy in Paris to leave, we will do the same for the French embassy in Tehran," Iran's U.N. representative, Said Rajaei Khor-

assani said in an interview with French Television.

Iranian embassy translator Wahid Gordji has been in biding in his mission for at least three weeks. France says Mr. Gordji does not have a diplomatic passport and, therefore, does not have diplomatic immunity. Iran contends he is a diplomat.

The ministry spokesman refused to comment on any negotiations concerning Mr. Gordji or Mr. Torri, saying only that contacts between French and Iranian authorities were continuing by telephone in Tehran.

He added that Italy's ambassador to Iran was given entry to the French embassy in Tehran Tuesday and that Pakistan's ambassador to France would be accorded the same visiting rights to the Iranian embassy in Paris.

Curfew imposed in Karachi after seven killed in riots

KARACHI (R) — Pakistani authorities clamped a curfew on parts of Karachi on Wednesday after a day of rioting in which doctors said seven people were killed and more than 30 injured.

A government statement said the indefinite curfew was to take effect at 11 p.m. in the riot-hit eastern districts of Landhi, Malir and Shah Faisal colony.

Army troops began taking positions to enforce the curfew soon after the government announcement, witnesses said.

Hospital doctors said two policemen and an 11-year-old boy were among the seven killed in clashes between police and protesters.

Two policemen were shot dead and four stabbed Tuesday night in Landhi. Witnesses said the attacks provoked a revenge rampage by police in the area.

They said a group of angry policemen seized firearms at a police station, rushed to the riot area and opened fire indiscriminately.

The violence came on the fourth day of riots that erupted after two car bombs killed 73 people in Karachi last week.

Protests against the bombings first turned into ethnic clashes and later into anti-government riots after police arrested scores of people.

According to witnesses police have arrested at least 250 people in riot-hit areas in the past two days.

Police said one policeman was shot dead by rioters Tuesday night while on patrol in the industrial area of Landhi in eastern Karachi and another was shot on guard duty at the main gate of Landhi police station.

An assistant inspector and three policemen were also stabbed and wounded as violence raged late into the night in the Landhi district, police added.

Police sources said the deaths and stabbings angered colleagues at Landhi police station who picked up firearms and rushed to the riot area seeking revenge.

The sources said the men were restrained by senior officers and a magistrate who disarmed them and sent another police picket to the scene.

However, witnesses said the group had fired all around in the area.

Pro-Syrian Lebanese factions form new front

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A pro-Syrian front, grouping 13 Lebanese Muslim and leftist factions, was launched Wednesday and its first statement vowed joint action against Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Lebanon's mostly Christian right.

The Unification and Liberation Front also called for the "integration" of Lebanon and Syria at the economic, social, educational, foreign policy, security and defence levels.

The alliance, the statement said, decided at its first meeting to form a joint military operations room for the confrontation with Israel and "its agents."

This was a reference to Israeli-backed rightist militias. The creation of the new front, the latest in a series of efforts to halt feuds among Syria's militia allies, was announced by Assem Kanso, leader of the Baath Party, the Lebanese chapter of the party that rules Syria.

Several Syrian-sponsored fronts have been declared since the outbreak of Lebanon's civil war in 1975. However, they all were undermined by power struggles.

The new front also called for strengthening ties with the Palestine National Salvation Front, a Syrian-backed group that opposes PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's leadership.

The creation of the front was announced at a news conference attended by political and militia leaders at west Beirut's Carlton Hotel.

In addition to the Baath Party, the front groups the Shi'ite Amal militia, the Druze-dominated Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), the Communist Party and Sidon's People's Nasserite Organisation, as well as 20 independent personalities.

The front's 14-point programme attacked Mr. Gemayel and the anti-Syrian rightist "Lebanese Forces" militia, accusing them of aiming to divide the country and of involvement in the murder of

Prime Minister Rashid Karami on June 1.

"The downfall of the sectarian regime... has become the only solution," it said.

Political sources quoted by Reuters said formation of the front was a first step in bringing Mr. Gemayel's opponents together. It would be followed by a bigger "national conference" in Damascus.

Former President Suleiman Franjib, a Syrian ally, was in Damascus on Wednesday to discuss the conference.

But diplomatic sources told Reuters they expected the new front to have little immediate impact and was mostly Syria's way of showing a firm response to the death of Mr. Karami, a key Syrian ally.

Syria stepped up efforts to form the front following Mr. Karami's death aboard an army helicopter and said it would not reopen talks with Mr. Gemayel on ending the war until Mr. Karami's killers and their backers

were punished.

So far only one man has been arrested as a result of the official investigation — a Christian army mechanic from the helicopter base who has been charged with facilitating the murder.

Mr. Gemayel's strained ties with Damascus have paralysed his government since January 1986, when he refused to endorse a Syrian-backed peace plan to grant Muslims more say in Lebanon's political system, which favours Christians.

The front's programme is similar to the 1986 plan, which most Christian leaders also rejected.

The front vowed to reorganise the fight against Israel with a joint operations room, stressed Lebanon's "Arab identity" and "distinguished" relations with Syria and called for the abolition of Lebanon's sectarian political system.

It called for complete cooperation between the Lebanese and Syrian armies. Syria has some 25,000 troops in Lebanon.

Aide contradicts North testimony on shredding

WASHINGTON (R) — White House aide Robert Earl has contradicted his former boss Oliver North who told Congress he shredded Iran-contra documents under the noses of two Justice Department officials probing the scandal last year.

In declassified excerpt of closed-door testimony Mr. Earl gave to the Senate and House of Representatives committees probing the Iran-contra scandal, the aide recalled a different episode than Col. North boasted of during his six days of testimony that ended last Tuesday.

Mr. Earl, who was an aide to Col. North at the National Security Council (NSC), said that last Nov. 22, three days before Col. North's office when two Justice investigators, Bradford Reynolds and John Richardson, arrived.

Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Richardson had been ordered by Attorney General Edwin Meese to search Col. North's files for documents relating to the scandal.

In his testimony, Col. North said he kept up a conversation with the Justice officials 10 feet (three metres) away while he weeded out Iran-contra documents and took them to the shredder in his outer office.

The Justice Department has denied Col. North's account. Mr. Earl said the two Justice officials left to have lunch just as Col. North arrived.

While they were away, Mr. Earl said that Col. North reviewed documents "and I think found others that were suitable for the category that we had been looking for the day before." That category, he testified, was shredding.

He said Col. North left before the two officials returned from lunch.

Meanwhile Adm. John Poindexter ended five days of testimony in the Iran-contra scandal, severely rebuffed for harming President Reagan, but the former national security adviser said he left the hearing with "head held high."

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Israel bartered arms for Jews — North memo

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israel conducted its own version of an arms-for-hostages deal, bartering weapons for Jews in Iran, Lt. Col. Oliver North told his superior in a document released at the Iran-contra hearings.

In a Dec. 4, 1985, memo by the former National Security Council aide to Adm. John Poindexter, Col. North wrote that Israel sold arms to Iran out of a desire to see the Iran-Iraq war "continue at a stalemate" and "a more moderate Iranian leadership in the end."

He added that whether the United States joined the U.S. arms sale to Iran or not, Israel "will somehow find a way to continue getting their people — Jews — out of Iran through some kind of barter arrangement."

Israel has steadfastly denied its sales were motivated by concern for Iran's Jewish community, claiming it acted only to help the United States resolve its hostage

problem.

The four-page document includes a description of Col. North's discussions with two Key Israeli officials involved in the affair: Then-director of the Foreign Ministry David Kimche and former Defence Ministry Director Menachem Meron.

The question of Israeli efforts to evacuate Jews from Arab or enemy states is highly sensitive in Israel. Reports about the persecution of Iranian Jews or their departure from Iran are subjected to Israeli military censorship.

The number of Jews in Iran has dwindled from about 80,000 at the time of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi's downfall in January 1979 to an estimated 25,000 at the end of last year.

There is no clear picture of how Jews leave Iran. Officially, Jews are only allowed to leave the country for medical treatment or family visits overseas, if they

leave property or cash collateral behind.

News reports say some Jews bribed their way out of Iran and travelled a circuitous and often dangerous route through Pakistan and Turkey.

More than 1,000 Jews who escaped last year arrived in Vienna, Athens, Rome, Frankfurt and Paris and requested permission to immigrate to the United States.

News reports and occasional statements by Israeli officials have suggested that Israel has been selling U.S.-made spare parts and light weapons to Iran almost since the Iran-Iraq war began in September 1980.

Iran's army, like Israel's, is based almost solely on U.S. weaponry, and the Iranians are believed to have turned to the Israelis for help to circumvent a U.S. arms embargo imposed after the U.S. embassy in Tehran was seized by radical students in 1979.

Gulf Arabs extending facilities to U.S. ships

David B. Ottaway
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — After years of spurning American entreaties for closer military ties, the Gulf Arab states around Kuwait, in an unprecedented display of cooperation, are opening their ports, airfields and other facilities to help in case of the United States' naval escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers brings on armed confrontation with Iran.

The shift in attitude among the six countries of Arab Gulf Cooperation (GCC) has raised hopes among U.S. military strategists that the Arab leaders may agree to convert temporary U.S. access to their facilities into more permanent arrangements, possibly including a shore site for the forward headquarters of the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), now carried aboard a ship.

The command, set up in 1983, is the successor to the Rapid Deployment Force created to protect U.S. vital interests in the Gulf in the wake of the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Despite persistent efforts, U.S. officials have never persuaded any Arab Gulf state to host CENTCOM headquarters or provide it with any bases.

Worries about the war's course have spurred the Gulf Arab states to take these steps, administration and congressional sources say.

Saudi Arabia has committed its own five newly acquired AWACS surveillance aircraft for setting up a second aerial orbit over the southern Gulf that will be used to relay intelligence on Iranian military moves to U.S. warships escorting the 11 refueled Kuwaiti tankers.

The Saudis, who already provide air cover with their F15 fighters for U.S. piloted AWACS aircraft flying the "northern orbit" covering the upper Gulf from inside the kingdom, will also provide similar protection for the AWACS in the south.

The Saudis also have offered their four U.S.-made minesweepers to hunt for mines Iran may lay in the northern Gulf to damage American warships or the U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tankers.

Saudi ports, airfields and hospitals are expected to be made available in emergencies to U.S. ships and aircraft.

Bahrain: Home port of the USS La Salle, flagship of the six-vessel U.S. Middle East Force stationed in the Gulf, Bahrain has expanded harbour facilities in the city of Manama available under a lease arrangement to accommodate the additional three warships being sent to help carry out the escort mission.

Some U.S. military planners are hopeful that if the United States carries out its escort mission successfully and gains Arab confidence, Bahraini authorities will allow CENTCOM to move its forward headquarters, now on the La Salle, into facilities ashore in Manama.

United Arab Emirates: In a major concession to the U.S., the federation of seven sheikhdoms has agreed, reportedly under heavy Saudi pressure, to allow the U.S.-Saudi "southern orbit" AWACS to operate over its territory, despite likely Iranian ire.

It also has agreed to "over-flights" of its territory by U.S. aircraft, apparently in case a U.S.-operated AWACS is used or U.S. aircraft go into action from carriers stationed just outside the Gulf.

Kuwait: In the region's most radical shift from a standoff policy, Kuwait, which once rarely allowed port visits from U.S. warships, now offers regular port access to U.S. escort warships and military protection to all U.S.-flagged ships within its territorial waters.

Oman: The only Gulf Arab state to have signed an access agreement with the United States as far back as 1980, Oman has agreed to increased use of its U.S.-upgraded ports and airfields by U.S. warships and aircraft supporting the escorts.

Qatar has never played any significant role in the Arab Gulf Council's defences or been asked to provide any military support to CENTCOM or the U.S. Middle East Force. U.S. officials have given no indication Qatar will play any role in the escort plan.

Israel radio continues strike

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli government radio broadcasts remained off the air for the second successive day Wednesday because of a strike by journalists demanding more pay, officials of Voice of Israel said.

U.S. escort destroyer was ordered by the shah

WASHINGTON (R) — One of the U.S. warships heading to Gulf Wednesday was originally built for the late shah of Iran.

The destroyer Kidd was taken over by the U.S. navy when the shah was overthrown by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1979. U.S. navy officers nickname it an "Ayatollah class" warship.

The ship is one of four guided missile destroyers ordered by the shah but never delivered.

The Kidd, Callaghan, the Scott and the Chandler, the only four warships of their kind and officially called Kidd-class destroyers, were launched in 1979 and 1980 in Mississippi.

The Kidd is part of an armada of U.S. warships protecting Kuwaiti tankers from Iranian attack in the Gulf.

Navy officers praise Kidd-class ships for their ship, submarine and aircraft-fighting abilities.

The Kidd is 150 metres long and carries an array of electronic equipment, two helicopters, Harpoon anti-ship and standard anti-aircraft missiles. It also has rapid-fire Phalanx 20 mm guns to deal with sea-skimming missiles at close range.

The U.S. Wednesday began escorting the supertanker Bridge-ton and the gas carrier Gas Prince through the Gulf.

Soviet diplomats leave Israel without prior notice

TEL AVIV (AP) — Three of eight Soviet diplomats who arrived in Israel 10 days ago left on Tuesday without explanation but were expected back later this week, a spokesman for the delegation said Wednesday.

The diplomats are the highest-ranking Soviet officials to visit since the Kremlin broke ties with Israel during the 1967 Middle East war.

Alexander Onia, a spokesman for the Finnish embassy in Tel Aviv which is hosting the Soviets, refused to say where the delegates went or why they left, except to say they did not return to Moscow.

Mr. Onia, reached by telephone, said that among those who left was delegation leader Yevgeny Antipov. Mr. Onia did

not identify the others.

"All I can tell you is they left yesterday. They didn't return to Moscow and they may be back tomorrow," Mr. Onia added and refused to elaborate.

Israel Army Radio reported Tuesday night that the delegates had flown to Cyprus, and quoted them as saying they would return to Israel in a few days.

When they arrived on July 12, the Soviets said they would stay in Israel at least three months to survey Russian Orthodox Church property and to look into the status of about 2,500 Soviet passport holders who live here.

Mr. Antipov told the Associated Press on July 18 that he expected to leave Israel in 10 days but that he would be replaced by another diplomat.

Arab professor seeks Israeli court ruling on free speech

NABLUS, Al Najah — University Professor Saeb Erakat, sentenced last week for incitement, says he will pursue an appeal to the high court of justice to seek a definition of the limits of free speech in the territories.

The Nabulus military court has imposed an eight-month suspended sentence on Prof. Erakat and fined him 10,000 New Israeli shekels for an article in the Al Najah newsletter last year in which he called on Palestinians to "endure, reject and resist" Israeli

occupation. Prof. Erakat's lawyers had argued in court that resistance could take non-violent forms, and said the charges violated their client's freedom of speech. Their appeal to the high court was made after Prof. Erakat's conviction in April.

In a reply to the high court, this month, the state attorney's office said free speech could be limited in areas under military rule. The case is still pending — The Jerusalem Post.

Gulf escort seen as test of U.S. resolve

By Tim Carrington and Gerald F. Seib

WASHINGTON — On the eve of its launch, the seemingly simple Gulf escort plan has mushroomed into one of the riskiest, highest-profile tests of American resolve the Reagan administration has undertaken.

The plan already has stirred dangerous passion inside Iran, and terrorism or other violence against the U.S. may well result. Washington has some ideas about how to respond, but Iran isn't another Libya or Grenada that would be easy to hit and forget. Moreover, any armed clash could close the very strategic "opening" to Tehran that enticed the Reagan administration into the Iran-contra affair in the first place and perhaps even draw the Soviet Union further into the Gulf.

Administration officials don't play down the importance the tanker plan has taken on. "The initiative... has to show that we're willing when conditions dictate to accept the burden of a superpower," says Richard Armitage, the assistant secretary of defence for international security affairs.

Judith Kipper, a Middle East scholar at the Brookings Institution, summarises the challenge more bluntly: "If we blow this one, we won't be a superpower anymore."

With the U.S. reputation in the Middle East battered by the Iranian arms fiasco and the earlier failed peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, even the administration's critics don't want the U.S. to back away.

Yet the plan is fraught with risk: U.S. ships face the threat of attack from Iranian mines and speedboats that are hard to detect. In addition, some officials worry about terrorist attacks against U.S. business and military outposts in the Gulf area.

"You must retaliate or you have no credibility, even though by retaliating you are drawn further in and by retaliating you are taking actions we studiously avoided earlier in the administration," says Nicholas Veliotis, who was the assistant secretary of state for the Middle East in the first years of the Reagan presidency.

— The Wall Street Journal.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:35 Programme Review
15:45 Cartoons
15:55 Children's programmes
16:05 Local news reports
16:15 Butterfly Island
16:25 English series
16:35 Arabic series
16:45 Health and Life (Arabic)
16:55 Local news reports
17:05 Programme review
17:15 News in Arabic
17:25 Arabic series
17:35 Local news reports
17:45 News summary in Arabic
17:55 Arabic film contd.

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Rue Carnot
18:10 Le chance aux chansons
18:20 News in French
18:30 French varieties
18:40 News in Hebrew
18:50 Varieties
19:00 News in Arabic
19:10 My Husband and I (Comedy)
19:20 Master Work
19:30 Rags to Riches
19:40 News in English
19:50 Feature film: "Night Kill"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 950 KHz, SW
Tel: 77111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
08:45 Morning Show Contd.
09:00 Country Music
09:10 Newsweek
09:20 News Summary
09:30 Pop Session
09:40 News Bulletin
09:50 Newsweek
10:00 News Summary
10:10 News Bulletin
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23:50 Newsweek

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings exhibition by Refat Al Hattar at the French Cultural Centre (until July 25).

* A photographic exhibition by Zohrab at the Royal Cultural Centre (until July 25).

* Plastic art exhibition at the University of Jordan.

FEATURE FILM

* "On Golden Pond" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

JERASH FESTIVAL

(July 8-31)

Thursday 23/7/87

* South Theatre: 9-11:30 p.m. Inman Darwish Sing Group Egypt

* Sound & Light: 8-9 p.m. Children's Play: Window Tree 9:30-10:30 p.m. Royal Jordanian Folk Troupe

* Antenna Steps: 8-9 p.m. Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe 9-11:30 p.m. The Moroccan Al-Rabat Andalusian Songs

* Forum: 6-7 p.m. Jordan Armed Forces Band 7:30-9 p.m. Local Folk Groups 9-11:30 p.m. China Aerobatic Troupe

Friday 24/7/87

* South Theatre: 9-11:30 p.m. Caracalla Sing Group "Echoes"

* Sound & Light: 8-9 p.m. Children's Play: Butterflies Dancing

9:30-10:30 p.m. Radio Jordan Music & Songs

* Antenna Steps: 8-9 p.m. Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe

* Forum: 6-7 p.m. Jordan Armed Forces Band 7:30-9 p.m. Local Folk Groups

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267

American Centre .. 644371

British Council .. 6501778

French Cultural Centre .. 637009

Goethe Institute .. 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre .. 620409

Anglo Cultural Centre .. 639777

Haya Arts Centre .. 665195

Husseini Youth City .. 667816

Y.W.C.A. .. 645251

Assiut Municipal Library .. 631111

Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555

SERVICE CLUBS

The Assiut Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphiya Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Assiut Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphiya Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 6:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816334, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabel Amman, Tel. 624990.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabel Lubweidbeh, Tel. 661757.

Terraviva Church (Roman Catholic): Jabel Lubweidbeh, near Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623365.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox): Abadi, Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabel Amman, Tel. 625383.

Armenian Catholic Church: Ashrafieh, Tel. 771531.

Armenian Orthodox Church: Ashrafieh, Tel. 772561.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.

Assiut International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsani, Tel. 677534.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

10:30 Kuwait (RJ)
10:50 Dhahran (RJ)
11:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:15 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
11:30 Jeddah (RJ)
11:45 London (RJ)
11:55 New York, Vienna (RJ)
12:00 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
12:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:30 Paphos, Athens (RJ)
12:45 Rome (RJ)
12:55 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:20 Frankfurt (LH)
07:00 Cairo, London (BA)
07:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
07:30 Beirut (ME)
08:30 Bucharest (RO)
13:30 Tripoli (LN)
14:05 Cairo (MS)
14:45 Bahrain, Doha (GF)
15:35 Kuwait (RJ)
16:20 Istanbul (TK)
17:40 Riyadh (SV)
18:00 Baghdad (IA)
20:00 Sana'a (LI)
21:40 Baghdad (AF)

PRAYER TIMES

04:11 Fajr
05:43 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:42 Dhuhr
12:55 Asr
19:41 Maghreb
21:13 Isha

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in Jds

Belgian franc 82.2 / 90
Dutch guilder 164.1 / 165.8
French franc 55.9 / 56.1
Italian lira 25.6 / 25.8
Japanese yen (for 100) 225.2 / 229.3
Swedish crown 53.1 / 53.6
Swiss franc 22.9 / 23.4
U.K. sterling pound 54.4 / 55.1
U.S. dollar 343.6 / 346.6
W. German mark 184.4 / 185.8

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be hot with light and variable winds in Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 22 / 35

Agaba 36 / 41

Deserts 22 / 40

Jordan Valley 25 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Agaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Agaba 38 per cent.

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:20 Frankfurt (LH)

07:00 Cairo, London (BA)

07:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)

07:30 Beirut (ME)

08:30 Bucharest (RO)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Wijdan opens art exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali Wednesday opened an exhibition of plastic arts at the University of Jordan within the university's celebrations marking its golden jubilee. On display at the week-long exhibition are 130 art work pieces. Some 170 university students took part in the exhibition. Princess Wijdan toured the exhibition and met with participants.

Dentists group heads for West Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA), Dr. Walid Maraqa, left Amman Wednesday for the West Bank at the head of a JDA delegation to take part in a "Scientific Day" which is sponsored by the JDA branch in the occupied territories. The event, to be held in Jerusalem Friday, will involve West Bank dentists who will be discussing a host of questions related to the dentistry profession. Dr. Maraqa and the accompanying team will study the needs of the JDA branch in the West Bank and the general dental health condition of the Arabs under Israeli rule.

Gaza pilgrims arrive in Jordan

SOUTH SHUNEH (J.T.) — A 2,080-member group from the occupied Gaza Strip arrived here Wednesday across the King Hussein Bridge on their way to perform this year's pilgrimage in Mecca. The group was greeted by officials from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. They are being put up at the special lodging for pilgrims at a site near South Shuneh. The pilgrims will be making the trip to Saudi Arabia by land and will be joining some 18,000 Jordanian pilgrims at the holy sites for the religious rites that culminate with Eid Al Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice), most likely beginning Aug. 5.

JUST begins application process

IRBID (Petra) — The Jordanian University of Science and Technology (JUST) announced Wednesday that it will start accepting applications Saturday, a process which will continue until Aug. 15. It said in a statement that all applications should be sent through post offices. The announcement said that students with an average mark of 80 per cent can apply for enrollment at the university's faculties except those applying for joining the nursing college. Apart from nursing, the university is open now for engineering, pharmacy, dentistry and medicine.

Crack PSD units graduate

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — A ceremony was held at Kufrein military camp Wednesday for the graduation of a batch of crack units of the Public Security Department (PSD). The graduates performed military exercises. After speeches on the occasion, Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali, PSD director general, distributed cups and awards to those who excelled in their performance.

North Yemen to buy cement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) has signed an agreement with a North Yemeni corporation concerned to export 200,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement to North Yemen. JCFC Director General Khalid Al Thaher said. Dr. Thaher announced this on Wednesday upon his return from Sana'a, North Yemen, after taking part in the two-day meetings of the Arab Union of Cement and Building Materials held there on July 12. He added that the agreement is expected to be put into force during the next few weeks.

2 saved from sewer

IRBID (J.T.) — Two Egyptian workers were rescued Wednesday by civil defence men after they had fallen into a manhole in the city's sewer system.

Ramadan Zayoud, 32, and Rajah Issa, 27, were both picked up from the sewers after they fell into the hole, when the earth gave way from under them. They were buried by dirt and rocks, according to a civil defence spokesman. He said that the two men fell

into a four metre deep manhole and were cut off from oxygen, but were saved when civil defence men passed to them oxygen pipes inside the sewers which saved their lives.

Only after the stones and dirt were removed from the pit the two men were taken out safely, the spokesman added.

He said that the two workers were rushed to Princess Basma Hospital for treatment. Their condition was described as fair.

1st int'l motor show in Mideast to be held

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — At least 57 car manufacturers and companies from Western Europe and the United States will participate in a 10-day international motor show to be held in Amman in July 1988, according to an announcement by the show's organisers Wednesday.

Representatives of the organisers, 'Alam Assayarat, a Jordanian Arabic language car magazine, told a press conference held at the Amman Plaza Hotel that the Ministry of Tourism supported the project, which is also being supported by the organisers of the International Essen Motor Show in West Germany.

The magazine's director, Mohammad Ayyad, said that the Royal Jordanian Falcons will put on an air display on the opening day of the car show and Jordanian folklore troupes will participate by providing variety programmes.

He said the international motor show would be the first ever held in the Middle East.

Under Secretary of the Ministry of Information Michael Hamarneh who addressed the conference said that his ministry will do its best to guarantee a fruitful and successful show.

According to Mr. Ayyad, the Ministry of Tourism has organised a three-day tour of historic and archaeological sites in Jordan for the representatives of the participating companies, which, it hoped, will boost the country's tourism industry and help market Jordan's various attractions abroad.

A representative of the Essen show told the meeting that Jordan was chosen because it has good relations with European countries, it enjoys a central geographic position in the Arab World, and its touristic sites are attractive to European and American visitors.

Mr. Ayyad said that the show will be staged at the Al Hussein Youth City, but that work is underway for setting up a 15,000 square metre site for the car show, which will be held annually in the country.

Bank employees union to discuss dismissals

By Samir Hiyari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The controversy generated by the summary dismissal earlier this year of bank employees by two foreign-owned banks in the Kingdom will be one of the subjects discussed at a meeting of the General Union of Bank Employees (GUBE) Friday, according to Mr. Hajdaj.

Rashid, GUBE's president.

He said the meeting, which will be attended by representatives of local and commercial banks in the country, is also scheduled to discuss other issues pertaining to the banking profession.

He said that the current attempts by banks to reduce benefits for employees will also be discussed by the meeting.

Less fortunate youth graduate from vocational training schools

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour and Social Development graduated Wednesday 56 students from its vocational training centres in Amman and Ruseifa, after they had completed a two-year training course in various trades.

Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan distributed diplomas to the graduates of the Wasfi Tal Martyr School in Amman and the Vocational Centre at Ruseifa. Director of the Social Development Department in Amman Governorate, Mr. Mohammad Falah, told the ceremony that the programme is designed to less fortunate students and orphaned children aged between 12 and 18, enabling them to adapt to the needs of society and become useful, productive citizens.

These trainees produce at their workshop furniture used by the ministry, Mr. Falah said. The trainees, he added, have been trained in blacksmithy, dressmaking and maintenance of equipment.

According to a spokesman for the ministry, the Wasfi Tal centre provides training to 75 students while the Ruseifa training centre offers training to 104 students.

Art exhibition depicting beauty of flowers to open

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two women are holding an art exhibition using the theme of flowers at the Intercontinental Hotel's gallery from July 25 to August 6, 1987.

Hind-Lara Mango has an exhibition of 57 miniature pressed flower impressions. She has blended the colour and forms of flowers in a number of captivating pieces, ranging from lightness of "On the Beach" and "Model in the Wind" to the more weighty "Allah".

Tracy Barnum's watercolour paintings depict various flower arrangements in arabesque vases. Each painting beautifully blends the colours and shape of the flowers with the vases in shades that evoke the feeling of springtime.

Bilbeisi named as acting WAJ head, replacing Keilani

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has decided to appoint Mr. Mu'tazz Bilbeisi, the Transport Ministry's under secretary, as acting president for the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), to replace Mr. Mohammad Keilani, who resigned as WAJ president earlier this month.

Mr. Keilani and Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) President Munther Haddadin resigned following reports confirming that water being pumped from the Deir Alla water project had been polluted by water from the King Talal Dam which experts said was unsuitable for domestic use.

The Zai water treatment plant in Deir Alla was designed to pump water after treatment and purification into the Amman area from the East Ghor Canal while the King Talal Dam reserve was intended for agrarian use. The mixing of the plant's water intake with water from the King Talal Dam, which is not suitable for human consumption, produced odor, taste and colour in water observed by the inhabitants of Amman.

The government suspended pumping water from the Deir Alla water project as of July 1, and commissioned a team of British water experts to carry out studies on all water resources in the Jordan Valley area.

The British team was called because earlier studies by local and foreign experts had reportedly failed to reach consensus on the safety of both the King Talal Dam water reserve and water from the East Ghor Canal for domestic use.

Mr. Bilbeisi's appointment came during a regular Cabinet session chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifal during which the Cabinet also appointed Dr. Radi Waqfi as Jordan's representative to the executive council of the Islamic Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organisation (IESCO). Dr. Waqfi is also secretary general of the Ministry of Education.

The Cabinet, which reportedly has plans to create a water and irrigation ministry, did not name replacement for Dr. Haddadin. Such a ministry would involve reorganisation of authorities dealing with water resources in the Kingdom in order to centralise decision-making, avoid duplication of work and overlapping of responsibilities.

During Wednesday's regular session, the Cabinet also decided to include the Abu Nuseir Housing Estate, some 10 kilometres west of Amman, into the Greater Amman Municipality zone. The inclusion would entitle the estate to benefit from the services provided by the municipality.

The estate, which groups 3,500 housing units has been sold largely to government employees. A limited number of units were sold to the private sector, expatriates and army personnel. Beneficiaries have 30 years to pay for their units; they were exempted by the government from paying the down payment.

U.S.-escorted Kuwaiti tankers clear Hormuz

(Continued from page 1)

played along its coast have a range of 80 kilometres. Reporters on board the U.S. navy guided-missile destroyer Kidd, which placed itself between the Kuwaiti tankers and any Iranian missiles, said the convoy had been ordered to go to the wartime footing of general quarters — the highest state of alert — as it passed through the strait.

Iran has warned Washington it would not hesitate to hit American ships in the Gulf and U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has said the United States had the capability to respond to any Iranian attack — sea or air.

Iran's U.N. ambassador said Wednesday Iran would attack Kuwaiti tankers escorted by U.S. forces if Iraq struck at Iranian or other ships heading for Iran.

Asked in a television interview if he foresaw the United States and Iran shooting at each other soon, Ambassador Said Rajaie Khorassani replied:

"It is very difficult to foresee... but if the Iraqis hit, then we will retaliate against the Kuwaiti tankers and then it will be left to the United States to make up its mind."

But he said Iranian forces would not attack the tankers under U.S. escort "unless the Iraq air forces attack our ships or a third party which comes to our shores."

Iran has said frequently it will attack ships, no matter what flag they fly, every time Iraq hits Iranian vessels and oil installations in the Gulf.

Tehran has also said it will leave shipping alone, including Kuwaiti tankers flying the U.S. flag, if Iraq stops its attacks.

Iraq's ambassador in Washington, Nizar Hamdoun, said in a separate television interview that his country would not give up attacks on Iranian tankers or oil storage facilities until Tehran accepted peace.



Scene from the children's play, "The Tree of Wisdom," performed at the Sound and Light Theatre all last week.

Children's play perplexes even adults

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

JERASH — Shajarat Alhikmah, "The Tree of Wisdom," a local children's play which was performed throughout the second week of the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts, received at best mixed reactions from its audience.

The fact that it was not a success was not in question, everyone agreed to that, but the disagreement was over why. In interviews conducted after the performance, some claimed that the language and the script were written for intellectual adults, able to analyse hidden meanings, if there were any meanings in the play.

The language was in classical Arabic; some people felt that there should have been a notice telling people to bring their dictionaries with them. That is to say the adults should have, the children had no chance.

A young woman in the audience told the Jordan Times that "The Tree of Wisdom, could never be a play for children, nor for adults. We may still be very far from reaching the level of intelligence and understanding that the director has reached."

The actors, the director and some less harsh critics, claimed



JERASH FESTIVAL
of Culture & Arts
21-31 July 1987

that the play would have been good had it not been for the many technical difficulties which the sound equipment played a large part in creating.

The play started with the appearance of a wicked magician on stage, singing a song that was interrupted by an old song by Um Kalthoum coming from radio waves picked up by the speakers. The voice was so loud that some people thought that it was written into the script. Then, strange sounds from the police wireless came over the speakers. During the performance, the magician's song tells people that he is the master of the world and that he rules it with fire and metal. Throughout the play, his power seems to lie in his ability to

control people's mind and make them respond to his commands.

The magician brings the people chocolate, drinks, toy cars, so that they would not have time to bother with using their minds on more important issues. All this effort is made to control a wise man in the play and his followers, his daughter, her lover, the doctor and the little birds in the tree. The wise man tries to fight these influences along with his followers.

This whole scene is supposedly played out in a forest. But the forest consists of only one tree and even that sheds its few leaves by the end of the play.

Somewhere near the end of the play, the magician is able to control the minds of the wise man, his daughter and her lover. But the birds escape the magician's power.

In the final scene the birds band together and fight the magician. When the others see them united, they wake from the power of the magician and fight along with the birds to destroy the magician.

The play was directed by Mr. Jabrael Al Sheikh, the actors were Shaies Al Nouaimi as magician, Khalil Mustafa as the wise man, Moughat Ezzat as the daughter's lover and Nadera Khalid as the daughter.

Jerash Festival Schedule for July 24-31

Place	Fri. 24/7	Sat. 25/7	Sund. 26/7	Mon. 27/7	Tues. 28/7	Wed. 29/7	Thurs. 30/7	Fri. 31/7
South Theatre 7-8								
7.30 - 8.30		Symposium Folk Group	Symposium Folk Group					
9 - 11	CARACALLA Sing. Group ECROS	CARACALLA Sing. Group ECROS		David Lakhani SHARAF AL- NUMAN	David Lakhani SHARAF AL- NUMAN	David Lakhani SHARAF AL- NUMAN	David Lakhani SHARAF AL- NUMAN	David Lakhani SHARAF AL- NUMAN
7.30 - 11		The Marco Saw Ballet Theatre	The Marco Saw Ballet Theatre					
Sound & Light 8-9	Children's Play Ballet Film Dancing	Children's Play Ballet Film Dancing	Children's Play Ballet Film Dancing	Children's Play Ballet Film Dancing	Children's Play Ballet Film Dancing	Children's Play Ballet Film Dancing	Children's Play Ballet Film Dancing	Children's Play Ballet Film Dancing
9.30 - 10.30	Ballet Jordan Music de Songs	French Troupe Troupe	French Troupe Troupe	French Troupe Troupe	French Troupe Troupe	French Troupe Troupe	Local Music de Songs Groups	Local Music de Songs Groups
Artemis Steps 8-9	Polish Puppet Theatre Troupe	International Youth Musical Performance 8-9.30	International Youth Musical Performance 8-9.30	Italian Puppet Show	Italian Puppet Show	Italian Puppet Show	Italian Puppet Show	Italian Puppet Show
8-18								
9.30 - 11								
Forum 6-7	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band	Jordan Armed Forces Band
7.30 - 9	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups	Local Folk Groups

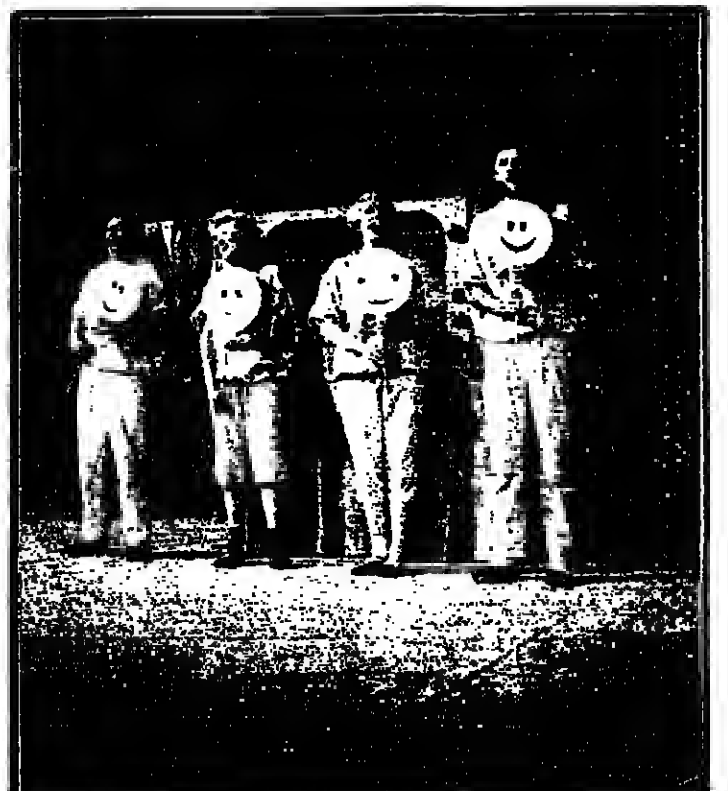
Photos by Yusef Al 'Ali



Lebanese singer Salwa Qatib and her accompanying singers light up the night in the performance of Lebanese Nights by Romeo Lahoud.



Czechoslovakian folk troupe, Lucnica, exhibits the grace and beauty of the Slovakian culture at the South Theatre Monday and Tuesday.



Polish puppeteers put on happy faces at the Artemis Steps.

Jordan Times

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Responsible Editor and Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Garbled signals from Iran

THERE are already several signals from Iran that it will deny official recognition to the United Nations Security Council resolution, passed Monday, but that it will move forward to accord a de facto acceptance of it. Having already charged that the presence of U.S. fleet in the Gulf is violating the fifth paragraph of the resolution which called on "other" states to refrain from taking actions that could worsen the conflict, Iran is using an important article in the resolution in its defence, and is, by implication, accepting at least some cardinal elements of the resolution. This is not to suggest that the legality of Monday's resolution is dependent on its acceptance by the parties to the conflict. The pronouncements of the U.N. Security Council are operative independently of the agreement of the immediate parties to whom the resolution is principally addressed. What makes this resolution on the Gulf unique is that it was drafted and adopted without seeking Iraq's and Iran's agreement to its terms and principles. In this context, there was an obvious departure from established U.N. Security Council practices which have hitherto involved direct consultation with the immediate parties to the conflict and have sought their consent to the preamble and operative paragraphs of resolutions. In this departure from established traditions and practices, the U.N. has taken an important step forward. There is no doubt that jurists and international lawyers will view the latest decision of the Security Council as a milestone in the positive and progressive development of international law. All supporters of the U.N. system will surely salute the Security Council for the positive innovations introduced to its practices and procedures.

We also think that Iran will abide in practice by the resolution because it has a vested interest in its implementation, at least on a partial basis. Iran has always sought to protect oil tankers en route to its ports to ensure a steady and continuous flow of its oil to international markets. Iraq is less dependent on free navigation in the Gulf because it uses a network of pipelines to export its oil to the world.

Most probably Iran will continue its offensives across the Iran-Iraq frontier but not large-scale military operations. Meanwhile, Iran will most likely cooperate with the independent international committee, provided for in the U.N. resolution to determine the responsibility for the start of the Gulf war, a principal point of contention for Tehran. This provision for an impartial investigation could provide the psychological breakthrough necessary to end the war. We anticipate that Iran's partial de facto acceptance of the resolution will be dominated by rhetorical rejection of some of the paragraphs embodied in the resolution. The Security Council therefore will be well advised to speed action on the impartial investigation to address a primary point of contention, that Iran has been insisting on for long time.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Iran remains defiant

REACTIONS to the U.N. Security Council resolution calling for an end to the Gulf war reflected the true desire of all nations and governments for peace, security and stability. All world governments welcomed the resolution, hoping that it will be implemented, except for Iran and its rulers who declared their outright rejection of the peace bid. It is natural to expect such a behaviour from a regime obsessed by the idea of war and its exploits and the lust to see more sufferings of the Iranian peoples. Iran is thus adopting a similar attitude like that of Israel vis-a-vis U.N. Security Council resolutions, scoffing at the international will and its decisions. Both Iran and Israel would not have adopted this attitude and pursued an aggressive stand towards their neighbours had they not been receiving unlimited aid and support from countries that continue to benefit from the continuation of the conflict. All reactions from around the world indicate that countries at large would like to see the new Security Council Resolution 598 implemented and sanctions and penalties imposed on Iran to force it to abide by the will and the decisions of the international community. We take hope from a statement from President Reagan who said that the United States aims at achieving peace; and in its endeavours, it will not take sides but will do its best to translate the resolution into real practice.

Al Dustour: King regrets U.S. stand

KING Hussein has reiterated the importance of convening an international Middle East conference to establish peace in the Middle East and said that the proposed conference was the only practical option for the achievement of a political settlement to the complicated problem. In an interview with a French magazine the King expressed regret over the United States attitude towards the proposed conference and with regard to its stand towards the Arab-Israeli conflict in general. He also voiced his regret over Washington's attitude towards the Gulf war and its double faced policies with regard to its relations with Iran and its sale of arms to that aggressive nation. King Hussein pointed to the deep frustration in the Arab World from U.S. policies due to such attitude, coming from a superpower which ought to abide by its principles and work towards establishing peace. It should be stated that Washington's policies have harmed U.S.-Arab relations and that all statements by U.S. officials which are not translated into practice can never improve these relations or help the cause of peace. King Hussein has outlined the clear, frank and genuine Arab orientation towards peace through an international conference which marks the first step in ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. The King also referred to U.S. ambiguous position as one that has contributed to the escalation of tension in the Middle East.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel dismantles Arab institutions

ISRAEL'S inner cabinet has decided to take measures making it extremely difficult for the Arab-owned Jerusalem district electricity company to maintain its operations in the Arab territory. This decision reflects the Jewish state's aggressive attitude towards the Arab inhabitants and their interests and national aspirations. The decision is to be regarded as one more link in a long chain of malpractices against the Palestinians and their national rights, and is in line with Israel's standing policy of expropriating Arab property and evicting Arab inhabitants from their homeland.

How good is Thatcher's government to British Jews?

By Eric Moonman

The writer, who served as a Member of British Parliament for 10 years, is senior vice president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. His article is reprinted from the Jerusalem-based Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

ON JUNE 11, Mrs. Thatcher won her third election in a row. The implications for the British public and for British Jewry in particular are likely to be significant, beyond the life of this present Parliament.

How has the election affected the Jewish community? The fact that there has been a drop in the number of Jewish MPs — five down from the number in the last Parliament, has caused much speculation and a little concern in the Jewish community. It's true that there has been a steady reduction in Jewish MPs since 1966-70, during my first term as an MP, when the figure was 46; but more important than the number of MPs is their particular attitude and commitment towards Jewish and Israeli affairs. There are those members who were born Jewish but take great pains to point out either that they have no affiliation to the community or were converted to Christianity. Even more significant, to my mind, than the reduction of the number of Jewish MPs, is the change in the political allegiances of the group that has been elected. They reflect the general trend of the community to move from left to right.

The numbers game does not help us to understand the subtleties of British politics. It is more important to assess the statements of the party leaders and their position papers on Jewish issues. In the manifestos there was virtually no mention of the Middle East conflict, let alone of Israel. The Tories reported quite correctly, "we have played a prominent part in bringing Israel and the moderate Arab states close to peace negotiations in the framework of an international conference." Labour took the line of being an "honest broker" between Israel and the Palestinians, pledging to support and protect the rights of both.

Israelis in Britain have expressed surprise that foreign affairs should play such a minor role in an election. The contrast with an election campaign in Israel where regional and international politics play such an important part, must be startling. Instead, in Britain we have a series of arguments expressing deep concern with the quality of domestic services. A leading Labour spokesman told me, "the fact that foreign affairs did not surface was not because we planned it that way, but because of the domestic issues (health, education and taxes)." In fact, in retrospect, he might have added that the one period in which Labour was really uncomfortable during the June campaign was when the debate focused on defence.

Two features of the British political system much admired in Israel are the constituency MP

concept and the "first past the post" principle. Yet the anomalies of our system are there for all to see. The Conservatives held their 43 per cent share of the vote and lost 17 seats overall. Labour put up its share from 28 per cent to 32 per cent and gained 21 seats overall, but has 40 seats fewer than it did in 1979. The Alliance dropped from 26 per cent of the vote to 23 per cent and finished with 22 seats, one fewer than in 1983.

Yet the Alliance of the Social Democratic Party and the Liberal Party continues to show little for having seven million supporters, except a deep sense of grievance. But the chance of either Conservatives or Labour making any commitment to proportional representation is remote — why should they help to create a third party challenge? I attended a number of political meetings during the election where PR was seriously discussed. At an Alliance meeting in Bury South (Manchester) for instance, a young man wanted to know how we would cope with the emergence in Parliament of the right and left-wing extremists which PR would inevitably bring. "As a Jew," he said, "I am not prepared to trust the so-called good sense of the people not to elect a member of the National Front."

There are, of course, ways of overcoming these hazards and the reply he got confirmed that a PR model based on the German system would ensure that parties not reaching 5 per cent of the electorate would not qualify for representation.

seotation.

The General Election subcommittee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, which I chaired, and which included representatives of Ajex, the Zionist Federation and Bipac, submitted a questionnaire to more than 2,000 Parliamentary candidates. The replies are still being analysed, but it is already clear that they provide an important profile of our friends in Parliament and of those who are not so friendly. More than 550 replies were received to questions on Israel, the defence of the Jewish community and shehita. In addition to the questionnaire, delegations of Jewish constituents met with many candidates throughout the country seeking their views on the same issues.

It is already apparent that a major task is required in informing and educating our new legislators. Mrs. Thatcher's government shows little change in the departments likely to affect Israel. Geoffrey Howe remains as foreign secretary and is joined by Lynda Chalker, a very keen advocate for Soviet Jewry, who takes the No. 2 job. On the opposition side, Denis Healey has quit foreign affairs which can only mean an improvement. Dealing with the issue of shehita, Mr. Jorling has been replaced by Mr. Gummer. That, too, has to be better news. There is also David Mellor, a minister of state responsible for the Middle East, who will clearly be more open-minded than his predecessor, Timothy Renton. Mr. Mellor's speech to the International coun-

cil on Soviet Jewry in London two weeks ago confirms the fine talent of this minister.

It may be a little unwise to speculate on exactly what government attitudes will be towards Israel and Jewish questions for the next four to five years of this Parliament. But the following observations are likely to be not too far off the mark.

— There will be no shift in government policy away from Israel. Margaret Thatcher runs her own foreign policy whoever carries the portfolio. Her stamp throughout the past eight years on the Middle East has been consistent, constructive and understanding of Israel's position as a way no British prime minister has acted, with the exception of Harold Wilson. Her discussions recently with Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres confirm her continued positive stance.

— The Venice Declaration for an EEC initiative on the Middle East is dead. But I suspect efforts will be made to revive the corpse in one or other of the EEC countries. The EEC foreign policy, however, does not figure too highly on the prime minister's agenda, so Lord Carrington's brain-child is unlikely to get a hearing. Anyway, there is no demand within Britain to upgrade EEC affairs.

— Shehita is one area which troubles the Jewish communal leadership. It is not a narrow issue of who eats what, but in recent years two separate groups of people, Animal Rights and the extreme Left, have campaigned against those who want to protect

the right to ritual slaughter. As Sir David Price, MP, said in his introduction to a recent Centre for Contemporary Studies briefing paper, "first, there are the new-style militant campaigners for animal rights who believe that the end justifies the means and are therefore all too ready to act beyond the law. Secondly, there are the militant racists who are equally ready to use any means to achieve their ends." These two elements add a new and disturbing dimension to the old debate on shehita which could take it outside the traditional pattern and rules of British politics. There are occasions when these two groups overlap in their aggressive stance on Jewish matters.

I believe Mrs. Thatcher will hold firm on the shehita issue because it would affect not only the Jewish community, but the one million Muslims who have a fast-growing voting potential.

The Conservatives look set for a comfortable period of office, though their radical first-year programme may run into rough times. The balance and style of power is changing in Britain. We have moved away from the welfare, supportive state into a popular capitalism. Many houses are owned, more shares are owned (one in five has stock), and there is more emphasis on privatisation, for instance in education and the health service. Mrs. Thatcher is directing the ship with greater verve and it looks, for the moment, as though there is no land in sight for the Labour, Liberal and SDP alternatives.

Rebels gain upper hand in Sudan's southern fighting

By Dalia Baligh
The Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — For the first time, Ethiopian-backed rebels may have gained the upper hand in the protracted civil war in southern Sudan. However, the fighting could continue for many years.

Army morale appears to have worsened during the current rainy season, which restricts army mobility while providing cover for the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army. This has contributed over the last nine months to the change in battlefield fortunes.

"Militarily, it looks like the SPLA is in a stronger position," said Peter Woodward, a lecturer at England's Reading University who has studied Sudanese politics for 20 years. "They're at their strongest yet," in the 4-year-old war.

In a telephone interview from England, he pointed to recent SPLA victories, the demoralisation of the army, disagreement among army leaders over war policies of Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi and the government's inability to keep the army supplied.

Members of Al Mahdi's government rarely comment on day-to-day fighting but vow in their speeches that the government will make war until the rebels agree to talk peace.

Nevertheless, the Sudanese press, among the freest in the Arab World since the ouster of the authoritarian President Jaafar Numeiri in 1985, has been filled with detailed reports of government defeats.

And a measure of government concern is a law being prepared that attorney general Abdul Mahmoud Saleh said will bar news media from reporting on the southern fighting without clearance from the army.

Despite the SPLA's advantageous position and government losses, Woodward said the rebels remain unable to win a military victory. He predicted the fighting could continue "for many years to come."

In Khartoum, several foreigners privy to military information from the south agreed to discuss the war on the basis of anonymity. They said the government brought many of its problems on itself by overestimating its capabilities and underestimating those of the rebel movement. The latest example, they said, was the taking in late May of the southern garrison town of Jekaw, whose commander told SPLA radio that he had not been resupplied for 400 days. Jekaw is in the Upper Nile region, some 1,250 km northeast of Khartoum.

The sources noted increasing signs of the SPLA's moving ahead, including a 50 per cent increase of the number of guerrillas under arms to 30,000 and indications that the movement is winning the sympathy of more southerners.

Ethiopia is increasing its support to the rebels, both in hardware and logistics, such as the Ethiopian air cover provided for the attack on Jekaw, the sources said.

The army claimed that Cuban and East German ground advisers also participated in the battle for Jekaw, but the sources in Khartoum said they could not confirm that. One said, however, that East Germans are known to be at an Ethiopian army depot and training centre at Gambella, just across the border from Jekaw.

The sources said the SPLA in recent months moved toward controlling a 66 km strip of villages along the southern-eastern border with Ethiopia for attacks in the interior.

The government's latest setback was not a military defeat, but a political embarrassment: The July 7 abduction of three American teachers and a British nurse from a Christian college in a southern garrison town.

There remains no definite word on the fate of Americans Mark Nikkel, Steve Anderson, and Katherine Taylor, or Heather Sinclair, of Northern Ireland.

The SPLA has not claimed responsibility for the kidnappings, although the hostages were taken in an area largely under SPLA control.

The guerrillas control much of the south, an area larger than France, while the government spends an estimated one million Sudanese pounds (\$400,000) every day in trying to quell the rebellion.

That is a heavy drain on resources, considering that Sudan's foreign debt of around \$12 billion demands annual interest payments of \$800 million.

The SPLA rebellion, which started in 1983, is rooted in a similar war that ended in 1972 when then-president Numeiri negotiated an end to the war between the Muslim majority in the north and Christians and animists in the south.

But many southerners felt that pro-Western Numeiri reneged on his pledges by dividing the south into three regions and by planning to divert to the central government most profits from oil fields being developed in the south.

SPLA leader John Garang, an army colonel, went to the bush in spring 1983. The conflict worsened the following September when Numeiri decreed strict Islamic law throughout Sudan. Garang does not advocate secession but wants a secular government giving southerners their full rights.

Despite peace overtures by the junta that replaced Numeiri in April 1985 and Al Mahdi's elected government that took power a year later, the fighting continues.

Although the army has superior firepower, the SPLA has the tactical advantage in the rainy season of guerrilla warfare in the bush. Its fighters use high grass as cover to ambush troops and attack garrisons, but washed-out roads immobilise the army's equipment and its aircraft are unusable during the monsoons, which end in September or October.

Sources say the army's morale is worsening because the SPLA has them on the defensive during the rains.

Iraq ready to implement U.N. resolution

(Continued from page 1)

Tehran would never accept the U.N. resolution but would pursue the war "until the elimination of the regime governing Iraq."

This did not mean Iraq did not recognise the United Nations, only that it should act independently and not under U.S. pressure, the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) quoted him as saying in a speech at Ardebil, in Azarbaijan province.

Baghdad-based diplomats said the resolution satisfied Iraq's demand for a comprehensive settlement, while it ignored Iraq's demand for Iraq to be held responsible for allegedly starting the war in September 1980.

Iraq called the U.N. resolution worthless even before it was passed. Afterwards, it said the measure was "unjust" because it does not describe Iraq as the "aggressor."

But Said Rajaie Khorassani, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, told the ABC television network Wednesday that Iraq had not "yet given flat rejection to the resolution."

He also said it was not surprising Iraq responded favourably, as it has to past resolutions. "It is, after all, ... as if the Iraqis had drafted it," he claimed.

The U.S.-brokered resolution won the unanimous support of the 15-oatoo Security Council Monday.

Tehran Radio on Tuesday quoted Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as saying Monday's resolution had positive points but was "not enough."

"If they even refrain from mentioning the name of Iraq as the aggressor then it means that they lack the courage to adopt a correct and just decision," Mr. Velayati said.

The resolution calls on Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar to "explore, in consultation with Iran and Iraq, the question of entrusting an impartial body with inquiring into responsibility for the conflict."

Iraq dates the war from the night of Sept. 22-23 when Iraqi troops moved into Iraq. Baghdad says the conflict started with border skirmishes engineered by Iran earlier that month.

Testimonies baffle hearings

(Continued from page 1)

President Hussein sent envoys to Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, Tunisia and Morocco with messages expected to cover the situation in the Gulf region after Monday's U.N. resolution was passed. Trade Minister and member of the Revolutionary Command Council Hassan Ali visited Amman on Tuesday and delivered a message addressed to His Majesty King Hussein. The message was received by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, the Regent.

Iraqi Interior Minister Saadoun Shakir had talks in Kuwait on Wednesday with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said.

Kuwait, within earshot of the southern warfront, had welcomed the U.N. ceasefire call. Iran has stepped up attacks on shipping associated with Kuwait because of the emirate's support for Iraq in the seven-year war.

Two Kuwaiti tankers flying the American flag entered the Gulf on Wednesday with a U.S. naval escort to protect them against attack.

He said the White House had contacted the Iranian official by telephone both before and after a Nov. 13 televised address on the Iran initiative by Mr. Reagan and a Nov. 19 presidential news conference.

But he did not say whether Mr. Reagan's desire to pursue talks with Iran, in hopes of winning freedom for American hostages held by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon, would have involved additional shipments of U.S. arms to Tehran.

Abdul Meguid ends Israel visit; differences remain

(Continued from page 1)

"It was the first collective meeting with Egypt. That has a certain significance," said Gaza lawyer Fayed Abu Rahme, named in 1985 as a possible delegate to future peace talks.

He said Mr. Abdul Meguid expressed Egypt's anger at critical resolutions adopted in April by the Palestine National Council, but said he hoped relations would eventually be rectified.

There was no mention of any visit to Cairo soon by PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Hikmat Al Masri of Nablus said the PLO should select the Palestinian delegates to a peace conference.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, a leading West Bank figure, quoted the Egyptian minister as saying the PLO had made a mistake by refusing to accept U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The issue of Palestinian representation at a proposed peace conference, to be convened under U.N. auspices, was also a main theme of a meeting Mr. Abdul Meguid held earlier with Abba Eban, chairman of the Israeli parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

"I think that's the major problem," Mr. Eban said after the meeting. "I believe that American and Egyptian influence, together with Jordan, might be

able to produce a pattern of representation that would be acceptable to Israelis."

Mr. Abdul Meguid told the Palestinians he had expressed strong dissatisfaction with the Israelis over living conditions in the occupied territories and stated Egypt's opposition to a new plan to pump large quantities of water from the West Bank to Jewish settlements.

Mr. Abu Rahme said they urged Egypt to lobby Israel to allow direct exports of agricultural produce from the occupied territories to the European Community. At present they are forced to go through Israeli marketing boards, which control prices and delivery schedules.

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Mafrag project trains women to help themselves

By Ramia Attallah
Special to the Jordan Times

THERE has been a growing realisation among professionals in the social development field that it is more useful to train people to help themselves rather than allow them to passively receive help from others.

Due to the old traditional way of handling society's needs, social development has often been associated with "charity" that is provided to the needy at the will and convenience of the wealthy. But that seems to be changing.

Social development is now being viewed as an essential component of the overall development of the country — it is also being dealt with as such.

What is more is that development projects in themselves seem to be taking on a more professional approach. One such example is the Income Generation Project for Rural Women in Mafrag.

The project, established in August 1984, combines women's and rural development — two major components that fall in line with Jordan's 3rd Five Year Plan for Social and Economic Development.

As far as women in rural areas are concerned, the plan states that these women have "a variety of problems," one of which is "a low level of production-oriented skills."

The plan also states that as far as the occupational distribution of women goes, the production sector is one of the areas that employ the lowest number of women.

Ministry of Planning statistics indicate that the percentage of women working in production actually fell from 1.1 per cent in 1979 to 0.5 per cent in 1984.

The five year plan also refers to the need for measures that would increase the participation of women in the planning process at all levels. This, in turn, would enable them "to play a more effective role in decision-making." In essence, the Mafrag project deals with these major elements simultaneously: It trains rural women in management and production-oriented skills and employs them in the production sector making professional-wear uniforms.

The Mafrag project was designed as a project for women,

run by women. The idea was that in the initial stage, 25 unskilled women with no work experience would be trained to manage and operate a small-scale industrial sewing factory.

That much has already been done. The factory operates eight hours a day, six days a week. The management aspects of the project are handled by a woman specially trained for that task which includes inventory keeping, accounting and production control. Two other women have been trained to train and supervise the remaining women in the factory. One woman has also been trained as a designer.

Various parties have contributed financially in setting up this project. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development contributed \$9,000, while the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) contributed \$242,000. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), an American development organisation, which is also the executing agency for the project, matched the AID contribution in cash and in kind.

CRS has assigned a team of four people to run the Amman-based aspects of the project. The team includes the project director, a community development specialist, a marketer as well as a finance officer.

According to Aysar Akrawi, project director at CRS, this project was not easy to set up. It was started from scratch. "We had to design a syllabus for industrial sewing, which did not exist in the country," says Mrs. Akrawi. "The programmes that existed were for domestic sewing only."

The majority of the women chosen to work at the factory had not finished high school. Most of them had never worked before. According to the CRS community development specialist, Rula Qumel, it took tremendous time and effort to train the women to be professional workers.

Mrs. Akrawi told the Jordan Times that "teaching the women work discipline and professionalism required a rearrangement of their priorities."

At the beginning the women were not prepared to work long hours. "They thought they could skip work in order to attend a marriage," Mrs. Akrawi said. Later, however, they realised that if they do leave work not only will the production at the factory drop

but they will also lose their jobs.

The difficulty in that respect, according to Mrs. Akrawi, was in making the women accept the concept of being away from home and taking a full-time job. This is why the role of the CRS community development worker was invaluable to the project, says Mrs. Akrawi.

It took various house visits by a community development worker to explain to the women's families the importance of their daughter's work as well as the necessity to lend them support.

According to Ms. Qumel, the reward was in seeing the progress which the women showed. She adds that the women had to also learn that during work hours the production level is directly affected by their concentration on work and performance.

While this reporter was talking to Fatmeh, one of the women on the production line, the production supervisor came up, and in a rather professional and polite manner said "this discussion is really lowering Fatmeh's production level, and the production line depends on her performance. Shouldn't this wait until the break at 12 o'clock?"

According to Mrs. Akrawi one of the interesting features of the project is the balance it managed to strike between the social and technical training aspects on the one hand and the commercial and business aspects on the other. In its first phase (which started in 1984 and runs till the end of 1987) the project had to emphasise the training aspect at the expense of the commercial one. Efforts centered around teaching the women the value of time, of concentrating on their work, as well as the importance of collective performance.

In their technical training, the woman also had to learn the importance of quality control. At the beginning all this came at the expense of higher production, but the time and effort spent later paid off. The factory is now able to produce for a sophisticated market.

"We have now reached a point where training does not have to be at the expense of the business," says Mrs. Akrawi. By the end of this year, "we would have trained the women so that both the technical and social development aspects will be reduced and all the concentration will be on the commercial aspect," she adds.

The Mafrag-based operation has already reached a self-sustaining stage. This year the factory completed production for one of the largest contracts it was awarded — 14,500 pieces commissioned by the King Hussein Medical Centre. Previously, these garments were imported from American suppliers.

An equally interesting feature of the project is its ability to involve the workers at every stage of its operation. The women have a good understanding of management decisions and process involved in operating the project. They are informed of their production schedule on a daily basis and are constantly aware of the deadlines they have to meet. According to Mrs. Akrawi, that makes them realise that the survival of the project depends on their performance.

"Every single one of us takes the responsibility for producing what we have to produce," says Bayan, another woman on the production line. "We all take the initiative to work together and do our best."

Mrs. Akrawi adds that the women have come a long way in accepting their responsibilities as workers. Recently, for example, they were faced with a deadline for which they had not met the set production level, they automatically volunteered an extra hour from their time. They knew they had to do that in order to remain in the market.

Despite all this however, the project is not free of difficulties. One difficulty currently facing the project is that of keeping the women who get married to continue working at the factory. For those women marriage usually means taking on a new role as a wife and possibly as a mother. This is precisely where the influence of the family and the husband comes in. In that regard, the project aims at getting the community — the husband and family in particular — to appreciate the value of the woman's work, financially and otherwise.

As it relates to the business aspect of the project, women getting married implies a certain rate of employee turnover. That rate has averaged at 2.6 per cent for every six months. To counter that, two training programmes are set up so that those who leave can be replaced without affecting production.

More than 300 women have applied to work for the factory from the time the factory was established, Mrs. Akrawi recalls. To date, the factory remains the only industrial project which em-



Her Majesty Queen Noor during a visit to the Mafrag project in 1986. (Right) is Mrs. Aysar Akrawi, the project manager (File photo)

plays more than four people in Mafrag.

To ensure the continuity of the project, CRS would like at this point to extend the project for a further 18 months in order to turn it into a fully-fledged commercial business. If the expansion is approved, it will be done by adding more specialised equipment that would allow for the employment of 15 more women bringing the total number to 40.

By extending the project for a further 18 months and allowing for its complete commercialisation, CRS will guarantee that the criteria upon which the project is set remain as its core. Those criteria, according to Mrs. Akrawi, are that a profit-sharing model be applied; that the project continues to employ women and to be operated by women; and that it remains in Mafrag. Only then will the business be ready to be sold or handed over to either the private sector, a private voluntary organisation or a semi-official organisation which could maintain the set criteria for it.

It is precisely in its basic criteria and management model that the Mafrag project falls in line with development plans for Jordan: It trains rural women in production and management-oriented skills, employs them in the related field, bringing them directly into the economy. After all, the five year plan states that "social development is a basic foundation of economic development." According to Mrs. Akrawi, that is the very reason why the Mafrag project could well be a

model for other development efforts in the country.

Randa Habib's
Corner

Regrettable

THE Marj Al Hamam incident, during which eight people were injured following municipal elections, is most regrettable. Jordan, in the past few years, has witnessed many elections far more important than municipal elections without any shameful actions.

Police were able to control the situation and to put an end to the gunbattle, which started from a quarrel between competing factions, according to eyewitnesses. With 33 candidates for 11 seats on the municipal council, and 7,700 voters, I don't see how these elections could degenerate into such a mess.

What is more amazing is the fact that some of the combatants were "well educated" people with "high degrees." Even more, I was told, police had to reinforce their guard of the wounded at the King Hussein Medical Centre, as assailants were coming back to "give them a lesson" on their hospital beds. In the meantime, competitive groups were reorganising themselves for a new "battle."

And if it was not for strict police measures a renewed battle might have erupted. What we need after incidents like this is a full public debate that would and should expose the reasons and the attitudes behind such incidents. In many countries, "battles" like this are ridiculed in TV and on theatre. I would myself be pleased to produce a comedy on this.

A whiff of the 'High' life

Diana Smith looks at the gustatory habits of the Portuguese and comes up with a rather fishy story...

LISBON — "Would you take something to Lisbon for my friend?" asked a colleague in Madrid.

I carried the something shrouded in six layers of plastic and thick wrapping paper through the stately halls of Madrid's Barajas airport. People sniffed the air — then gave me a wide berth. I queued in growing isolation for the security checks and was raced through by officers anxious to get me out of range as quickly as possible.

On the aircraft, the parcel and I sat alone. The cabin staff avoided us.

At Lisbon airport, a similar experience. Yet, when I called the recipient of the pink parcel and informed him I would drop it off on my way home, he exulted.

What could smell so bad and bring such bliss? What else but bacalhau? "Faithful friend," as the Portuguese call it: dried salt cod which in its uncooked state looks like... like... well, something very dead and putrefying and smells as it looks.

At the time I brought it from Madrid, there was a serious shortage of this staple of the Portuguese diet. To be its bearer from abroad gave one a special, if

odoriferous, status.

Now it is plentiful, although hideously expensive — from Esc500 (\$4) a kilogramme for the tough bottom-of-the-market sort, through Esc1,000 for a reasonable grade fit for your average bacalhau cakes, or shredded and blended with scrambled eggs, olives and onions and minichips, to Esc1,400 or more for the elite, moist, thick-fleshed monarch of the sea which goes into "spiritual bacalhau" steeped in cream for special occasions.

Twenty years ago it cost Esc17 a kilogramme, the equivalent of 10p (16 cents) a pound, and provided 62 per cent of the national diet.

Tall ships, blessed by the Archbishop of Milene, once sailed from the Tagus, bound for the Grand Banks of Newfoundland to fish for the huge cod there. Risking their lives in the heavy swell, the fishermen laboriously loaded their catch from tiny dories onto the decks of the graceful vessels.

Such colourfulness, however, was no match for latter 20th-century efficiency. The three-masted vessels were replaced by trawlers. The Grand Banks continued to be the favoured location but,

increasingly, cod came under tough quotas from Canada or the North Atlantic Fisheries Organisation. Now, as member of a European Community in dispute with Canada over fishing, Portugal cannot fish for cod in Canada's exclusive economic zone. So it imports Canadian cod. And Icelandic cod and Norwegian cod. Portugal devours 50,000 tonnes a year of topped and tailed salted "green", that is uncured, cod.

From "green" to cured, the cod loses a third of its weight. The yellow-grey dried slabs soak for a day before cooking.

Then, the Portuguese who pine for their pungent old friend even if it costs a thousand times more than a generation ago, tuck into Bacalhau a Bras, a Gomes de Sa, oven-baked, charcoal-grilled, boiled, mashed or minced — you name it; Portugal has as many ways of cooking as Heinz sauces.

Portuguese fishermen catch about 13,000 tonnes of cod in international North Atlantic water off the Grand Bank area — appropriately called the "nose bank" — or around Spitzbergen. They hope the EC will settle its dispute with Canada so they can be licensed to fish in Canadian waters, catching more and importing less — Financial Times feature.

Look out for our specialities at leading supermarkets in Jordan.



CHEESE FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

MADE IN GERMANY

British home secretary urged not to extradite soccer hooligans

LONDON (AP) — Home Secretary Douglas Hurd was urged by legislators Tuesday not to extradite 26 soccer fans to Belgium where they face charges over the 1985 Heysel Stadium riot in which 39 people were killed.

Eight lawmakers, all from the supporters' Liverpool district in northwest England, argued the accused should stand trial in Britain.

The fans lost a House of Lords appeal last week against their extradition, demanded by the Belgian government.

Under British laws, the home secretary must make the final

decision. Eric Heffer, a Labour Party legislator, said after a meeting that Hurd "said he has not made up his mind, and I actually believe him... he really did give the impression he is open to persuasion."

But David Alton of the Liberal Party said: "I do not think there will be a change of mind on

extradition." Alton said if 39 people had been killed in Liverpool football club's stadium, Labour lawmakers "would have been in the vanguard in demanding the extradition of those responsible."

The disaster happened before the kickoff between Liverpool and the Italian club Juventus of Turin in the European Soccer Cup final on May 29, 1985, when Liverpool fans charged the Italian fans.

The tragedy led to a ban by the International Football Association (FIFA) on English teams playing abroad.

Thoroughbred yearling market firms as Keeneland July auction ends

LEXINGTON, Kentucky (R) — The market for prime thoroughbred yearlings has firmed in the final session of the 44th annual Keeneland July Select Yearling Sale in a surprising price recovery from the weakness of the prior day.

Buyers at the world's most prestigious horse auction pushed gross sales to \$109,454,000 with winning bids averaging \$405,082 for 146 colts and fillies.

Prices at Tuesday's session marked a five per cent gain over comparable year-ago prices and a 20 per cent rise from Monday's average winning bids.

"People were relieved to see the market bounce back today after yesterday's gloom and doom," said Jim Williams, spokesman for the breeder-owned Keeneland Association.

"The market is apparently still going down, but the fall slowed from last year and the indication is there may not be too much decline in the future."

The average price for the two-day sale was off 9 per cent to \$371,030 from \$408,160, which was in line with some forecasts by thoroughbred market analysts.

The gross was up nearly \$5 million from last year's \$104.5 million but this was paid for 295 yearlings versus 256 last year.

The median price of \$275,000 was the same as last year's while the top price of \$3.7 million paid by Sheikh Mohammed Maktoum of Dubai for a bay colt sired by 1964 Kentucky Derby winner Northern Dancer out of Secret Asset was \$100,000 more than last year's highest bid.

Winning bids by the Makh-

toum family totalled \$31.3 million this year, or 28.5 per cent of the gross.

The second highest price came from leading American trainer D. Wayne Lukas, who bid \$2.9 million for a bay colt by 1977 Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew out of Smart Angle.

Ten yearlings sold for \$1 million or more brought to 16 the total in that price range for the sale compared with 17 last year.

Some of Tuesday's heightened activity was attributed to several offspring of Northern Dancer being offered.

One of the world's leading sires, he is being retired from stud duties this year and a participant noted that "buyers went after them" when part of his last crop went under the hammer at the Keeneland Pavilion.

Cycle-ball show in the offing

AMMAN (J.T.) — World and European champions in artistic cycling and cycle-ball are due in Amman Friday to stage a world champions festival of cycling, scheduled to start Saturday morning at the Roman Amphitheatre.

The 19-member West German team of which 14 are players, will be headed by the secretary general of the Indoors Cycling International Commission (CIS), Mr. Hans Born.

Aerobic and artistic cycling as well as cycle-ball events will be the highlights of the show which is being sponsored by the Middle East Academy of Sports (MESA). The individual world champion in artistic cycling, Dieter Maute, will also stage performances during the show.



Dieter Maute... in action



HERE, BALL: Mohammad Shawahin, Palestinian team striker (7), and Muneer Zino (6), Syrian Sibleh's defender, wait for the ball to come down during the sixth day of the Arab League Champions Championship held at Amman Stadium Wednesday. The two teams tied 2-2. In today's action, Al Faisali takes on Al Riyadh Wal Adab of Lebanon. The Iraqi army team leads the tourney with 4 points, followed by Al Faisali with 3.

Universiad casts doubt on Olympic ambitions

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's large team Tuesday returned home shamed after the World Student Games in Yugoslavia without a single gold medal — prompting criticism of the country's lofty ambitions for the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

The 122-strong team which competed in all 12 sports at the Universiad in Zagreb came back with just one silver and one bronze and placed 28th of the 129 participating nations.

Seoul newspapers said the poor performance brought shame and

shock to South Korea, which plans to make next year's Olympics a national showcase.

Commentators said many of the athletes sent to Zagreb were candidates for the Olympic squad yet their standards were far below those of the opposition.

South Korea won a total of 93 gold medals at the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, one short of China's winning haul, raising high expectations of Olympic success.

Sports officials are on record as saying they aim to win between 10 and 15 gold medals next year,

and some trainers have been criticised for beating athletes during training out of eagerness to better their performance.

One of South Korea's sporting heroines, Lim Chua-Ae, recently spent time in hospital with a ruptured eardrum after her coach hit her for recording poor training times.

The elfin teenage runner, who won three track gold medals at the Asian Games, did not compete in Zagreb because she is still at school.

Man admits giving cocaine to basketball star

WASHINGTON (AP) — Brian Tribble, the man acquitted of supplying the cocaine that killed basketball star Len Bias, now says he took drugs with the all-American the morning he died.

But because Tribble has already been tried and didn't take the stand in his trial, the prosecutor in the case says he is free from any prosecution.

"It's a mistake I readily admit," Tribble, 25, said during an interview Monday with WJLA-TV in Washington. "I admit it truthfully and now, right here on camera."

Tribble was found innocent June 3 of cocaine distribution and possession.

Robert Bonsib, the assistant state's attorney in Maryland who prosecuted the case, said Tuesday that the verdict frees Tribble from

further prosecution on those charges. Bonsib said that since Tribble never took the witness stand to proclaim his innocence, he also is free to say whatever he wants without committing perjury.

There are no further charges pending against Tribble.

"At this point he can admit to total involvement without any jeopardy of prosecution from this office," Bonsib said. "It's over."

Bias' teammates, Terry Long and David Gregg, testified during the trial that Tribble joined them in taking drugs with Bias in a

University of Maryland dormitory room on June 19, 1986, the morning the basketball star died.

They said the four were celebrating Bias' selection by the Boston Celtics with the second pick in the first round of the National Basketball Association (NBA) draft when Bias suddenly collapsed just after midnight.

Bias' death sparked an uproar at the university as Lefty Driesell, the basketball coach, and athletic director Dick Dull resigned, and the school tightened its enforcement of drug abuses.

Britain probing secret payments in horse racing aides

LONDON (AP) — British tax investigators have interviewed

leading horse racing jockeys, trainers and owners in a probe of undeclared payments running into millions of pounds, the Times of London has reported.

It said among those seen were U.S. jockey Steve Cauthen, British champion jockey Pat Eddery and Willie Carson, who often rides for Queen Elizabeth II.

The Times said trainers interviewed included the country's most successful, Henry Cecil, and a number of Arab sheikhs. Carson and Cecil confirmed to reporters they were interviewed.

The Times described the probe as the biggest carried out in Britain into horse racing.

"The inquiry is part of a determined move by the authorities to end tax avoidance in a sport which has always existed on cash payments," the Times said.

By Peter Baratta
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It all comes down to a matter of waiting. The course has been mapped out. The participants have registered their names. And with the exception of the typical last-minute details, preparations have been set for Friday's rally.

Now, for the drivers, organisers, sponsors and, yes, even the spectators, it simply comes down to enduring the seemingly endless suspense and pre-race butterflies waiting for the first car to shoot out of the starting gate.

And when that first car does roll off, it will usher in nine hours of low-speed drifts and high-speed races, smooth asphalt roads and grueling dirt trails, legal speed trails, and all-out sprints, clear skies and billowing dustclouds, cramped city streets and miles of open terrain.

It will usher in the 1987 Danish Jordanian Dairy Company Rally and all the excitement and pomp and circumstance that accompanies a national road rally.

Set to begin 10 a.m. Friday at the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) of Jordan's driver training centre, this rally has particular significance; if the current number one driver Hani Bisbarat and his co-driver win the race, Bisbarat will be crowned the 1987 Jordan rally champion.

But there are 27 other drivers gunning for the winner's circle and each one has a chance, using their knowledge, skill and a little luck, to take home the winner's trophy.

The 238-kilometre rally con-

No.	Driver	Co-driver	Car	C/G
1.	Nabil Karam	Samir Rifai	Opel Manta 400	4/B
2.	Hani Bisbarat	Wafai Masri	Toyota Celica GT	3/S
3.	H.R.H. Prince Abdullah	H.R.H. Prince Talal	Opel Manta 400	4/B
4.	Khaled Dallal	Ali Al-Hamam	Nissan 240 RS	4/B
5.	Moh'd Shiban	Khadher Al-Kassir	Nissan 240 RS	4/B
6.	Haile Aguilier	Gonzalo Aguilier	Nissan 240 RS	3/B
7.	George Khayyat	Fawzi Sawalha	Nissan 240 RS	4/B
8.	Haitham Mufti	Hassan Alseddin	Daihatsu Charmant	2/S
9.	Issa Halabi	Ziad Hamzeh	Toyota Corolla GT	2/A
10.	Marouf Abu Samra	Bilal Shkaidel	Nissan 240 RS	4/B
11.	Shehadeh Tawal	Serge Telatinian	Mitsubishi Starion Turbo	4/A
12.	Naser Bustami	Bisbar Bustami	Nissan 240 RS	4/B
13.	Zafer Abdeen	Mazen Dajani	Daihatsu Charmant	2/S
14.	Moh'd Sha'ban	Sarena Sha'ban	Talbot Sunbeam TI	2/A
15.	Maher Hattar	Fadel Abu Handan	Toyota Celica ST	2/S
16.	Tareq Bilbesi	Tuwfiq Taji	Toyota Corolla GT	2/A
17.	Mawwan Nuqul	Munir Mousa	Toyota Corolla	2/A
18.	Maurice Khoury	Hosam Abdeen	Daihatsu Charade	1/S
19.	Leith Naber	Khalid Naber	V.W. Polo	1/S
20.	Mohammed Bustami	Sufian Natour	Datsun 210	2/S
21.	Ahmad Qomq	Khalil Naber	Toyota Celica GT	3/S
22.	Elias Saba	Hani Issa	Opel Manta S	3/S
23.	Alfred Shamoun	Philip Alan	Seat Ibiza	2/S
24.	Mithqal Asfour	Nicola Bilbeh	Volvo 244 Turbo	4/S
25.	Mahmoud Siyyam	Luzay Baghdadi	Fiat Uno Turbo	3/A
26.	Jan Shamoun	Amjad Abdul Hadi	Opel Manta 200	
27.	Rimoon Fleifel	Riad Sammamoudh	Toyota Celica	3/A
28.	Ahmad Daoud	Firas Nemri	Lada VFTS	2/B
29.	Moh'd Abdo Shammout	Moh'd Malkawi	Triumph TR7	1/S

sists of two-119 kilometre laps. The laps contain 71 kilometres of road stages on public roads, and 48 kilometres of "special stages" roads closed to normal motor vehicles, according to the rally press officer Samir Dajani.

The road stages connect the special stages. Each vehicle must reach the start of a special stage at an exact time, predetermined

by the connecting road stage's distance and legal speed limit, for each minute in delay, the team is penalised one minute. However, for each minute the car arrives earlier, signalling the driver has exceeded the legal speed limit, the team is penalised two minutes.

During the special stages, the teams drive their cars to the

ultimate speed limits to reach the end of the stage. The time spent by each team in all 14 special stages is added up and the team with the lowest overall time wins the rally, Mr. Dajani told the Jordan Times in an interview.

This year's course takes the drivers south of Amman towards the Queen Alia International Airport and will contain special stages on asphalt, gravel, dirt and sand, Mr. Dajani added.

When the driver and navigator

finishes the first lap, they return to the RAC to service their car and then park it in the "park ferme" — the "closed park" where no one is allowed to touch the vehicles, Mr. Dajani said. The first team then wait for the other vehicles to finish the first lap.

The cars then embark on the second lap, with the order of starting determined by each team's performance on the first lap. The first car is scheduled to leave the RAC for the second lap at about 3:30 p.m., he said, adding that the last car is expected to return to the RAC from its second lap at about 6 p.m.

Rallying, once a privileged sport afforded only by the more affluent members of Jordanian society, is now a widely popular sport, open to any citizen possessing a Federation Internationale de L'Automobile (FIA) license, an eligible vehicle and money to cover the entry fee.

In the early 1960's before safety and competition become critical factors, participants usually entered rallies with the same car they drove to work each day, with the bumpers removed and perhaps with the addition of racing stripes or spotlights for cosmetic effect.

The road rally enthusiast is certainly a special breed Dajani said, but what makes the drivers and navigators continue to compete is still a bit of a mystery. "It's something you can't explain," he said smiling. "I always compare it with if you smoke and you try to give up smoking. 'It's very hard'."

"Rallying is the same, it's very hard to quit. When one of these days (someone will) have to retire, it will be very difficult for them, even to watch as a spectator," he said.

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مكتبة الامم

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.3950/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3218/13	Canadian dollar
	1.8598/8018	West German marks
	2.0912/22	Dutch guilders
	1.5412/22	Swiss francs
	38.52/55	Belgian francs
	6.1825/75	French francs
	1344/1345	Italian lira
	152.20/30	Japanese yen
	6.4790/50	Swedish crowns
	6.7875/7925	Norwegian crowns
	7.0525/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	454.10/454.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equity prices found support above the day's lows in late trading, after news of a larger than expected May U.K. current account deficit of \$561 million took the wind out of the market.

At 1444 GMT, the FTSE 100 share index was 38 points off at 2,352.6 after touching a low on the day of 2,346.2.

Dealers said the initial shock of the deficit, which was considerably above market predictions of a flat position, was not accompanied by substantial institutional selling interest, but was mainly confined to inter-professional trading.

The U.K. May trade deficit of £1.16 billion compared with market estimates of a £500 million shortfall. A sharp increase in U.K. June bank lending further underlined a substantial rise in the same month's retail sales figures.

The conjunction of these trends fuelled prospects of a continuing deterioration in the trade balance, given an historic tendency for a U.K. consumer boom to bolster demand for foreign goods, dealers said.

However analysts warned against attributing too much significance to one month's trade data, which had been delayed by a civil servant's strike.

U.S. banks report losses

NEW YORK (R) — America's biggest banks posted staggering second-quarter losses Tuesday, after raising their reserves for had loans to reflect the likelihood of recovering all the money lent in past years to Third World nations.

In an expected announcement, Citicorp said it lost \$2.59 billion in the second quarter, the largest loss ever posted by a U.S. bank, after adding \$3 billion to its reserve for risky loans.

Bankers Trust, the nation's eighth-largest commercial bank, said it lost \$554 million in the second quarter. The loss, also expected, followed its previously announced decision to add \$700 million to its loan-loss reserve.

First Interstate Bancorp of Los Angeles and San Francisco-based Wells Fargo and Co., the nation's ninth and 10th largest banks respectively, also lost money in the second quarter after putting aside huge sums to cover their doubtful Third World loans.

First Interstate reported a \$469.8 million loss for the three-month period after adding \$750 million to its reserves. Wells Fargo said it would add \$550 million to its loan-loss reserve, resulting in a \$293.7 million loss for the second quarter.

After Brazil announced in February that it would halt interest payments on its commercial debt, the biggest U.S. banks, led by Citicorp, started to augment their reserves in a quiet acknowledgment that many Third

World loans made in the 1970s are no longer worth 100 cents on the dollar.

Banking analysts and investors have cheered the bank's strategy, which suggests they are owning up to the bleak situation even though the moves wiped out their quarterly profits.

Citicorp, with assets of \$196 billion, said its huge quarterly loss erased the first-quarter's modest profit, leaving it with a \$2.32 billion loss for the first half of the year. The bank has said it expects to lose \$1 billion this year because of the need to raise its reserves. Citicorp has \$15 billion in outstanding Third World loans.

Previously other banks, among them Chemical New York Corp. and Mellow Bank Corp., reported big quarterly losses after using earnings to increase their loan-loss reserves. But it was Citicorp's announcement in May that set the stage for the bank's new and more realistic approach to the continuing debt crisis.

Many banks, flooded with petrodollars in the 1970s, lent large amounts of money to Latin American and other Third World countries. While those loans were profitable at first, rising interest rates and a sluggish world economy made it harder for debtors to keep up with payments.

Wells Fargo now has \$430 million in outstanding loans to Brazil, and \$1.9 billion in total Third World loans. Its loan-loss reserve,

which totals \$1.29 billion, represents 3.5 per cent of all its loans.

Although its loss in the second quarter left Wells Fargo with a \$215.4 million loss for the first half of the year, it said it expected to post a modest profit for the year.

First Interstate said a third of the \$750 million was setting aside in the second quarter would be used to cover losses anticipated from its plan to sell had domestic loans and foreclosed properties. The rest would go to cover possible losses on its foreign loans.

"Increasing the loan loss provision at this time enhances the potential for earnings growth in 1988 and the years beyond," said First Interstate Chairman Joseph Pinola. The bank's current reserve of \$1.22 billion comes to 90 per cent of its nonperforming loans.

At the end of the second quarter, Bankers Trust's loan-loss provision came to \$1.3 billion, representing a hefty 5.1 per cent of total loans.

But for its decision to substantially increase its reserves, its second-quarter income would have been 11 per cent higher at \$116 million, the bank said.

Bankers Trust, which has been moving away from traditional banking activities and offering more services and investment banking-type activities, said its income from fees and services jumped more than 50 per cent to \$289.9 million.

U.S. Senate protectionist bill alarms Asian countries

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and other officials expressed concern and regret Wednesday over the U.S. Senate's passage of a controversial trade bill that could curb U.S. imports of Japanese products.

"It is regrettable indeed that the Senate has seen fit to pass such a clearly protectionist piece of legislation," minister of international trade and industry, Mr. Hajime Tamura, said.

"The bill provides a large number of protectionist provisions which have the potential to hinder the smooth flow of world trade," he said in a statement.

The minister, who returned Sunday from a trip to Washington where he tried to ease U.S. criticisms of Japanese trade practices, said actions by both Japan and the United States are needed to reduce the two countries' huge trade imbalance, which totalled \$58.6 billion last year, according to U.S. figures.

Japan must boost its imports and the size of its domestic market, while the United States must cut its budget deficits and improve its industrial competitiveness, he said.

Mr. Nakasone, speaking at a Diet (Parliament) budget committee meeting, expressed concern over the large number of votes in favour of the bill, which passed the Senate Tuesday night by a 71 to 27 margin.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan "could not veto the bill since the 71 votes for it exceeded the 67 votes needed to override (the veto). The veto won't function if he uses it," Kyodo News Service quoted him as saying.

A presidential veto, which President Reagan has threatened, can be overturned by a two-thirds majority.

In a measure said to be aimed primarily at Japan, the Senate bill calls on the U.S. administration to retaliate against countries with "a consistent pattern" of unfair trade practices unless the abuses are eliminated through negotiations.

Another provision calls for a ban of up to five years on U.S. imports of products by Japan's Toshiba group of companies in retaliation for the sale of sophisticated computerised milling machines to the Soviet Union by a Toshiba subsidiary, Toshiba Machine Co.

U.S. defence officials charge the machines allowed the Soviet Union to make its submarines quieter and thereby harder to track.

Toshiba Corp. President Joichi Adachi said Wednesday his company is "seriously concerned" that the bill bans products by the entire Toshiba group, not just the subsidiary that allegedly violated Western-bloc regulations controlling the flow of high-technology goods to communist nations.

"We want to do our utmost to find a solution to this incident, not through sanctions, but by helping Americans understand our determination in the measures we have taken and will take in the future to prevent a reoccurrence."

ance," he said in a statement. Toshiba Corp.'s president and chairman resigned to take responsibility for the sale, and the Japanese government has forbidden Toshiba Machine from exporting to communist nations for one year.

Minister Tamura told the Diet on Wednesday that the government is drafting a revision of the foreign exchange and trade control law that would provide stiffer penalties for violators.

The maximum jail sentence under the law will be raised from three years to five years, sanctions against companies will be extended from one year to three years, and the statute of limitations will be extended from three years to five years, Kyodo quoted him as saying.

Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari said Wednesday the bill was "very problematical with strong protectionist elements."

"This move in the U.S. Congress is viewed with deep apprehension by the Japanese government," he said.

The Senate bill varies in some points from a trade bill passed earlier by the House of Representatives. The two versions must now go to a Senate-House conference committee for negotiations over creation of a common bill, which then will go to President Reagan for his signature or veto.

"We earnestly hope that the clauses related to individual companies and strongly protectionist portions will be corrected in the Senate-House conference committee," said Mr. Eishiro Saito, chairman of Keidanren, the federation of economic organisations.

"Passage of the bill must not be allowed to shake the foundation of the free-trade system," he said.

Korean minister expresses deep concern

In Seoul, South Korea, Trade and Industry Minister Rha Woong-Bae expressed concern Wednesday over the U.S. Senate's overwhelming approval of an omnibus trade bill with provisions for retaliation against some U.S. trading partners.

The South Korean minister said he hoped the "protectionist" trade bill might be "somewhat softened in a conference between the two chambers of the U.S. Congress, but that it is certain U.S. import restrictions under whatever compromise would be much tougher than now."

He expressed "deep concern" over the passage of the bill, and said he feared the world trade environment would worsen as a result of it.

Mr. Rha called for joint efforts by the South Korean government and business to cope with increased U.S. trade pressure,

which he said is likely in the coming two or three years.

A ministry official said Seoul would convey to the U.S. government its opposition to enactment of the bill, while stepping up cooperation in trade by increasing its imports from the United States.

The bill is aimed primarily at Japan, but also at Taiwan and South Korea. All three countries have trade surpluses with the United States.

South Korea already has been under heavy pressure from Washington to open up its market wider to U.S. goods and services by removing tariff and non-tariff import restrictions in order to reduce its bilateral trade surplus, which stood at \$7.3 billion last year.

The United States is South Korea's biggest market, taking 40 per cent of its global exports.

Mr. Rha said he feared the United States will strengthen its demands that South Korea lower tariffs further on manufactured goods and open its market more, particularly to farm products and services such as insurance and warehousing.

He urged South Korean industries to enhance their productivity and develop new technologies to be able to compete against foreign businesses in an open market on a reciprocal and equal footing.

Taiwan regrets passage of bill

In Taipei, Taiwan's government expressed regret Wednesday over the U.S. Senate's passage of a trade bill that could lead to cuts in U.S. imports of Taiwanese products.

"We regretted the passage of the bill," said Economic Vice Minister Li Mo, adding that the move contradicts the trade liberalisation policy which the United States claims it has been practicing.

Mr. Li said in a telephone interview that the Taiwan government would watch closely whether President Reagan would veto the final version of the bill.

A ranking trade official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, described the proposed bill as "highly protective and retaliatory in nature."

He said the Taiwan government had taken many measures to open its market wider to American products in the past year and would continue to provide more protection to American intellectual property rights to head off possible U.S. trade retaliation.

In the first six months of this year, Taiwan's surplus in trade with the United States totalled \$7.9 billion, up 29 per cent from the same period last year.

In Washington, President Ronald Reagan has vowed to veto the Senate's sweeping trade bill if it reaches him in current form — and that goes for the House of Representatives' version too.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righier Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A confused or deceiving condition this morning must be dealt with carefully to avoid offending someone. Later in the day, however, much better influences are in control.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid becoming involved in a peculiar situation between a family member and an outsider. Entertain this evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study communication matters early, as you'll need time to handle any problems which might crop up along the way.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be cautious in dealing with financial matters today to avoid costly errors. Get plenty of rest tonight after a hard day.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Stay alert today or you could be conned into a situation which could cause you embarrassment.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You may feel that your pride is being assaulted this morning, but later in the day the truth will emerge. Don't be rash.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A friend may want a favor from you, but study it carefully, as there may be more involved than you think.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An outside activity will require much more time than you thought, so give yourself plenty of time to handle it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You'll get a message from a distance which will puzzle you, but later you'll see that it is quite beneficial.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure you know the facts before questioning a bill or account. Don't embarrass yourself unnecessarily.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A partner may do something which you think is incorrect, but appearances are sometimes deceiving — don't judge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Remove obstacles from your path rather than climbing over or around them. Be sensible in career moves.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may think that a new amusement is too complicated, but use your common sense to work it out ingeniously.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have a knack for handling family and property matters, but may be quite stubborn early in life. A good education will eliminate this tendency and may provide great success in business. Your child would do well in sports, but not in those of a rough nature.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Spend the day and evening in a warm, charming and social atmosphere. Today is perfect for making new friends and being happy with your romantic interest.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Use your creative abilities to your advantage. Showing more affection for your mate could improve the home scene.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Paying compliments to everyone you encounter today would be wise, but don't go overboard with it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study your property, and find a way to add to its value. Find a way to invest small sums of money for a good return.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Spending just a little bit of money for personal reasons today would brighten up your mood considerably.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Finish your work for the day before pleasing your mate. Find something which will make you feel comfortable and happy.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get together with as many friends as possible today and make new contacts through them. Spend carefully.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Dress well today and make a fine impression. Be sure you hand out plenty of smiles today. Ask favors if needed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Write letters which you've been putting off, especially those to old business contacts. Cultivate new friendships.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Listen carefully to the views of others in any business affairs, or you'll overlook an excellent opportunity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be faithful in fulfilling your promises to an associate. Make a public appearance which helps your popularity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Make your surroundings more functional and attractive. You'll be much more efficient in your duties.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be sure to handle important business affairs, but then cut loose and enjoy a favorite recreation with friends.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have much natural charm, but teach your child not to rely on this alone. The education should be slanted along the lines of entertainment, artistry and adornment. He or she will have a great interest in music, and also a superior musical ability. Encourage it.

Greenspan to keep tight policy

WASHINGTON (R) — Mr. Alan Greenspan, President Reagan's nominee for Federal Reserve Board (Fed) chairman, has signalled he would maintain Mr. Paul Volcker's slight curb on money supply growth and says a U.S. recession is not in sight.

Mr. Greenspan Tuesday thus confirmed policies that are presently underpinning the dollar, checking inflation and sustaining current interest rate levels.

He also said he saw no signs of a recession in the coming year and few chances of a recurrence of the Great Depression, although there were similarities between conditions today and the late 1920s.

Remarks by Mr. Greenspan at his confirmation hearings before the Senate Banking Committee, caused some reaction in financial markets on Tuesday sending bond prices sharply lower.

Mr. Volcker, who steps down as chairman next month after eight years at the helm, said the central bank has retained its slightly more restrictive grip on credit, adopted last May in a bid to shore up the dollar and quiet inflation fears.

"Most interest rates, long and short term, have retraced part of the earlier rise. However, long-term interest rates and prices of sensitive commodities... remain well above their levels of earlier this year," he said during his last congressional testimony on the economic outlook as Fed chairman.

His comments suggested to analysts that while some of the

immediate upward pressure on interest rates has subsided, there was still reason to guard inflation vigilantly.

"I would say that the type of policies that chairman Volcker has initiated I think are essentially on target, and I would hope, should the Senate approve me, to follow in the footsteps of those individuals who held very much the same view," Mr. Greenspan told the committee.

He went out of his way to dismiss suspicions that he might be susceptible to political influence. Mr. Greenspan has long been associated with President Reagan as an informal adviser.

"I'd like to be insulated, but I'm not certain it's going to happen that way," Mr. Greenspan said "when asked" what his response to political pressure would be. "But clearly, I think it's important for the Federal Reserve to maintain its independence. I think it's terribly critical," he said.

Such pressures, even during next year's presidential elections,

B.P. restructures Standard Oil

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Standard Oil Co. has become B.P. America, marking an identity change that is part of the British Petroleum (B.P.) Co. restructuring of its U.S. holdings. B.P. chairman Sir Peter Walters says.

B.P. took full control of Standard Oil this year, acquiring the 45 per cent of the company's shares that it did not already own

in a deal worth about \$7.8 billion. Sir Walters also announced Tuesday at the Cleveland-based B.P. America the intention by London-based B.P. to issue new ordinary shares to raise about \$2.4 billion.

The issue, a subject to shareholder approval, will occur in conjunction with the anticipated British government's sale of its 31.7 per cent holding in B.P.

Peanuts



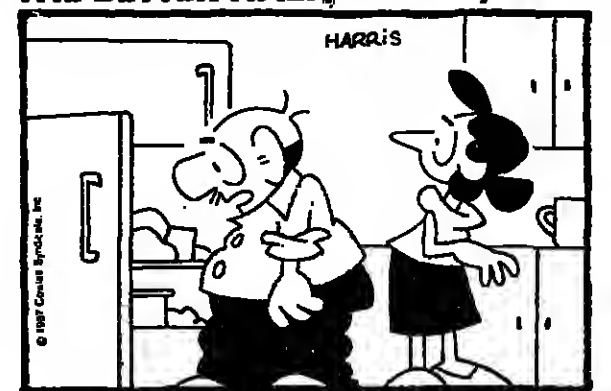
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

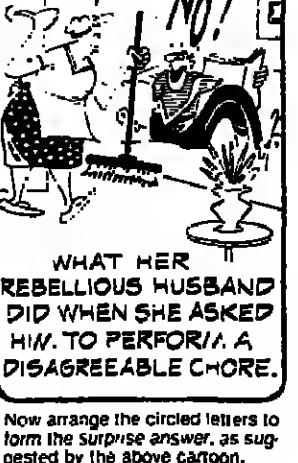


JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DEWEG
MICHE
ETTORP
ACTOLE

Time to clean out the basement



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O" (Answers tomorrow)

Aquino signs land reform decree

MANILA, Philippines (Agencies) — President Corazon Aquino on Wednesday decreed a land reform programme affecting most estates, including her family's sugar plantation. But she said Congress will decide how much property landlords may retain.

The decree represented a compromise between those who pressed for a detailed land reform decree, including a limit on private holdings, and those who maintained Congress should implement such a far-reaching programme. Congress convenes Monday.

Presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno said the decree covers all public and private agricultural lands except those held by "cultural minorities." He said Mrs. Aquino told members of her cabinet to support the programme or resign.

The decree requires landlords to register their holdings within 180 days. Peasants will pay for newly provided land in 30 annual installments at 6 per cent interest per year.

Mrs. Aquino told a news conference that Congress must decide on retention limits within 90 days. If Congress fails to do so, she said the administration will mandate its own limits.

Previous land reform drafts prepared by the administration limited private holdings to 7 hectares (17.29 acres) by 1997.

A land reform programme decreed by now-deposed President Ferdinand Marcos in 1973 affected only rice and corn-producing areas. The new constitution, ratified on Feb. 2 in a plebiscite, made the entire country subject to land reform but left details to Congress.

Mrs. Aquino told reporters the programme would also affect the 6,000-hectare (14,800 acre) Hacienda Luisita sugar plantation

owned by her family.

Communist rebels and militant farm groups urged Mrs. Aquino to break up the estate as a model for land reform nationwide.

"This is a comprehensive land reform programme, so definitely Hacienda Luisita will be affected by this programme," she said. "I have talked to my brothers and sisters about a voluntary (transfer) programme. At the same time, I am expecting Congress to come up with its recommendations or its enactments on the retention limits or priorities. So whatever comes first."

She said the fact that she had included sugar-growing areas "should convince everybody we are very serious about this agrarian reform programme."

Mrs. Aquino had promised to issue the decree before Congress convenes and she loses sole law-making powers. But several influential legislators said the decision on such a complex, far-reaching programme was best left

up to an elected Congress.

Some members of her cabinet had questioned whether her debt-ridden government had the money to finance such a programme, which calls for compensating landlords for property redistributed to millions of landless peasants.

Troops clash with Muslim rebels

In a separate development, Philippine marines hunted bands of Muslim rebels on Mindanao Wednesday as a government peace panel flew to Saudi Arabia in a bid to prevent war in the Philippines' Muslim south.

The military said a navy patrol craft suffered minor damage Tuesday when the separatist guerrilla fired 81-mm mortars at troops who had landed on a beach in the island's Zamboanga Del Norte province to clear the area of insurgents. No casualties were reported.

Japan to work on SDI despite Toshiba affair

WASHINGTON (R) — Japan's high-tech industry has been given approval to seek U.S. "Star Wars" research contracts despite a dispute between Tokyo and Washington over Japanese transfer of submarine technology to the Soviet Union.

The agreement, signed by Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Japanese Ambassador Nobuo Matsunaga, made Japan the fifth U.S. ally to join President Reagan's effort to build weapons to destroy nuclear missiles in flight.

"We (Japan and the United States) have ample arrangements to protect the technologies that we would work on together" under the memorandum, Mr. Weinberger told Reuters in an interview.

Britain, West Germany, Italy and Israel already agreed to take part in Mr. Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), commonly called Star Wars, but those agreements did not include the public controversy of the Japanese deal.

The signing came during a dispute between Washington and Tokyo over the sale by a Toshiba Corp. subsidiary to Moscow of propeller milling machines which can move virtually undetected.

"Japanese technology is very

good. They are certainly aware of what a serious loss it was," Mr. Weinberger told Reuters.

"I think that the horror with which Japan regards this loss and the fact that it came from one of their private companies will add greatly to the proper atmosphere for protecting the (SDI) technology," he said.

Another senior U.S. official, who briefed reporters on condition he not be identified, said the agreement marked a significant step by Japan toward increased defence awareness and cooperation with the Western allies.

The Japanese government is tightening export laws and increasing penalties for technology transfers to Eastern Bloc countries after recent publicity of the milling machine sale to Moscow by the Toshiba Machine Co in the early 1980s.

Japan's Toshiba, one of the world's high-tech giants, would be among firms expected to bid on Star Wars contracts. Defence officials told Reuters last month the Pentagon has a temporary ban on doing business with Toshiba.

Mr. Weinberger declined to say whether that embargo was still in effect, but the U.S. official who briefed reporters said it was.

U.S. senator calls for sanctions against Pakistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has called for sanctions against Pakistan for trying to export nuclear weapons materials from the United States.

Citing the arrest of a "Pakistan agent" in Philadelphia this month, Clairborne Pell, an opposition urged Congress to cut off a six-year, \$4.02-billion aid programme to Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the Washington Post on Wednesday quoted a government source as saying an arrest warrant has been issued for a Pakistani national in connection with charges brought in federal court in Philadelphia.

"With alarming regularity, Pakistan has violated its commitments ... not to manufacture nuclear weapons and ... not to enrich uranium," Sen. Pell said in a statement issued after a closed hearing Tuesday in the Capitol.

The aid package is still pending in Congress, with open hearings

on the Pakistani nuclear programme.

In another development, Pakistan's embassy issued a statement saying the Islamabad government denies official involvement in the attempted export and launched a high-level investigation into it.

"On the basis of information so far available, the (export) attempt appears to be the outcome of a conspiracy by elements who are opposed to the continuation of Pakistan-U.S. relations and have been attempting to deliberately scuttle the passage of the 1987-93 U.S. assistance to Pakistan," the embassy statement said.

The Pakistan government has denied that it is trying to manufacture nuclear weapons and says its atomic programme is peaceful. However, Pakistan has not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and does not allow foreign inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Army centre burned and 100 hurt in Bangladesh strike

DHAKA (Agencies) — Protesters burned down an army recruiting centre and at least 100 people were injured as widespread violence erupted during an anti-government strike in Bangladesh on Wednesday.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said nearly 400 opposition militants set the army centre on fire in Dhaka's crowded Azampur residential district, gutting the single-story brick building and assaulting the inmates. They also set two military vehicles ablaze.

Police fired scores of tear-gas shells to clear streets.

Dozens of firebombs exploded throughout the city, and pickets hurled or damaged at least seven

vehicles, witnesses quoted by AP said.

The strike closed down shops and commercial centres and halted traffic in capital city of four million people.

Dhaka's main commercial Motijheel district was a huge battlefield for several hours as police and supporters of the ruling Jatiya Party fought against pickets.

Police said 80 people were arrested.

Most inhabitants appeared to back the 54-hour strike, called by 21 opposition parties to force President Hossein Mohammad Ershad from power on the grounds that he is still running a "military dictatorship."

Weinberger: Stingers hurting Soviet troops in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (R) — Afghan rebels fighting the Moscow-backed government in Afghanistan have shot down substantial numbers of Soviet-made aircraft and helicopters with U.S.-made Stinger missiles, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has said.

"They have been very effective," he told Reuters in an interview when asked about reports that the rebels had used the sophisticated, shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles with devastating effectiveness in recent months.

Mr. Weinberger said he did not have firm numbers of Soviet and Afghan military planes shot down by the U.S.-supplied Stingers, but declared: "It is substantial — and helicopters too."

The defence secretary said he did not know if the five-foot-long

(1.5 metre) missiles, which the guerrillas have used in part to protect their mountain strongholds, would prompt Moscow to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan.

"It is very hard to get inside the minds of the Soviets," he said. "But they (Soviet forces) are certainly having a very unpleasant time of it with very high casualties and no way out that they can see. They control far less of Afghanistan now than they did in 1979 when the war began."

In addition to supplying Stingers to the Afghan rebels, the United States has turned some of the weapons over to rebel forces opposing the Marxist government in Angola and is considering whether to supply them to "contra" rebels fighting the leftist government of Nicaragua.

58 Ecuador troops jailed for kidnapping president

QUITO (R) — A court-martial has found 58 air force commandos guilty of involvement in the kidnapping of Ecuador's President Leon Febres Cordero, and passed sentences ranging from six months to 16 years.

After four months of deliberations, five military judges declared air force Captain John Maldonado, and 16 air force troops, guilty of leading the abduction of the 55-year-old president from Taura Air Force Base near Guayaquil on Jan. 16. All the leaders were sentenced to 16 years imprisonment.

Forty-one air force troops were charged with varying degrees of complicity and responsibility and given sentences ranging from eight years to six months, while 30 were absolved of any responsibility.

bility in the kidnapping.

The 58 commandos were immediately dishonorably discharged and stripped of all civil and political privileges, such as the right to vote or hold office.

Capt. Maldonado's lawyer, Jorge Andrade, told reporters he planned to appeal against the judgement and ask that the sentence be dismissed on the grounds that the five-judge council had "violated legal procedures and acted on higher orders."

Febres Cordero was held hostage for 12 hours along with an entourage of 40 officials, including his defence minister, by air force commandos who fatally wounded two of his bodyguards and injured 12 other people in the abduction.

Over 80 dead or missing in South Korean floods

SEOUL (R) — More than 80 people were dead or missing in landslides and after a river burst its banks flooding villages in South Korea Wednesday, the South Korean News Agency Yonhap said.

It quoted disaster relief officials as saying that 55 people were confirmed dead and 27 were missing in central province of Chungcheong where landslides levelled 23 houses.

State radio reported serious flooding in other parts of the country, still recovering from last week's battering by typhoon Thelma, which claimed 335 lives.

The Kungang River, which runs through Chungcheong, burst its banks, flooding villages, stranding more than 900 people and inundating over 33,000 hectares (80,000 acres) of farmland.

The government ordered evacuation of all settlements in the lower reaches of the river, state radio said.

Early Wednesday in Kongju City, about 110 kilometres south of Seoul, 18 schoolboys were trapped in rubble after a school gymnasium collapsed in torrential rain. They were rescued 90 minutes later.

Weathermen said between 15 centimetres and 47 centimetres of rain fell in Seoul and throughout central regions of the Korean peninsula in the past two days.

Last week, typhoon Thelma killed more than 300 people and made 15,000 homeless and destroyed thousands of acres of farmland when it roared through the south of the country.

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N. Korea urged to take steps towards democracy

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has urged North Korea to follow its southern neighbour on the path to democracy and start talks that could make the peninsula a model of international harmony.

Assistant Secretary of State Gaston Sigur, the U.S. government's chief policy maker on Asia, said North Korea had isolated itself and won a reputation for volatility and unpredictability.

"Earning a new reputation and image internationally requires more than words it requires real, positive actions," he said in remarks prepared for delivery to the Foreign Policy Association in

New York and released here.

"The only way to build real progress and to develop an enduring trust between people long divided is through an active policy of peace, not war — through building for the future, not seeking revenge for the past," Mr. Sigur said.

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GOVERNOR BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠1092 ♣Q10765 ♦AK852
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1♣ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AJ3 ♣AJ1065 ♦7 ♣KJ63
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass 1♣ 2♣ ?
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A83 ♣5 ♦KJ10652 ♣KQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K53 ♣AK3 ♦AQ9 ♣KJ65
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass Pass 2♦
What action do you take?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K102 ♣AQ63 ♦Q5 ♠AJ87
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠63 ♣2 ♦K875 ♣Q10983
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ 2♦ ?
What action do you take?

Q.7—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A83 ♣5 ♦KJ10652 ♣KQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.8—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K53 ♣AK3 ♦AQ9 ♣KJ65
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass Pass 2♦
What action do you take?

Q.9—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K102 ♣AQ63 ♦Q5 ♠AJ87
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.10—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠63 ♣2 ♦K875 ♣Q10983
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ 2♦ ?
What action do you take?

Q.11—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A83 ♣5 ♦KJ10652 ♣KQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.12—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K53 ♣AK3 ♦AQ9 ♣KJ65
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass Pass 2♦
What action do you take?

Q.13—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K102 ♣AQ63 ♦Q5 ♠AJ87
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.14—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠63 ♣2 ♦K875 ♣Q10983
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ 2♦ ?
What action do you take?

Q.15—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A83 ♣5 ♦KJ10652 ♣KQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.16—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K53 ♣AK3 ♦AQ9 ♣KJ65
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass Pass 2♦
What action do you take?

Q.17—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K102 ♣AQ63 ♦Q5 ♠AJ87
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.18—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠63 ♣2 ♦K875 ♣Q10983
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ 2♦ ?
What action do you take?

Q.19—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A83 ♣5 ♦KJ10652 ♣KQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.20—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K53 ♣AK3 ♦AQ9 ♣KJ65
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass Pass 2♦
What action do you take?

Q.21—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K102 ♣AQ63 ♦Q5 ♠AJ87
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.22—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠63 ♣2 ♦K875 ♣Q10983
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ 2♦ ?
What action do you take?

Q.23—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A83 ♣5 ♦KJ10652 ♣KQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.24—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K53 ♣AK3 ♦AQ9 ♣KJ65
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass Pass 2♦
What action do you take?

Q.25—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K102 ♣AQ63 ♦Q5 ♠AJ87
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.26—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠63 ♣2 ♦K875 ♣Q10983
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ 2♦ ?
What action do you take?

Q.27—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A83 ♣5 ♦KJ10652 ♣KQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.28—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K53 ♣AK3 ♦AQ9 ♣KJ65
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass Pass 2♦
What action do you take?

Q.29—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K102 ♣AQ63 ♦Q5 ♠AJ87
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.30—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠63 ♣2 ♦K875 ♣Q10983
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ 2♦ ?
What action do you take?

Q.31—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A83 ♣5 ♦KJ10652 ♣KQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.32—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K53 ♣AK3 ♦AQ9 ♣KJ65
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass Pass 2♦
What action do you take?

Q.33—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K102 ♣AQ63 ♦Q5 ♠AJ87
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.34—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠63 ♣2 ♦K875 ♣Q10983
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ 2♦ ?
What action do you take?

Q.35—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A83 ♣5 ♦KJ10652 ♣KQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.36—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K53 ♣AK3 ♦AQ9 ♣KJ65
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass Pass 2♦
What action do you take?

Q.37—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K102 ♣AQ63 ♦Q5 ♠AJ87
The bidding has proceeded